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Marsala High
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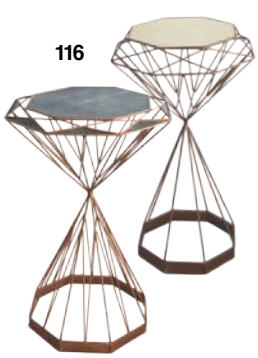
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Luna wallpaper by Cole & Son, available at Studio Eleven

Prism Glass chair from Glass Italia, available at Minotti

Mas Mosan Paonazzetto Classic tile (60x60cm), available at Goldkeys





Room for Change

Renovation stems from change, whether such is a necessity or brought about by a shift in personal style. Whatever the reason may be, now is the perfect time to reconsider your relationship with both your surroundings and yourself. Renovating may entail simply re-arranging your furniture pieces, de-cluttering, and purging old, unused items. Revitalize your space with a fresh new perspective to bring good mantra into your home.

There are several factors to consider before renovating and in this issue, we are sharing with you some practical tips that are essential starting points for a remodelling project. Our sections also feature how renovation design ideas can be put together, not to mention helpful advice on achieving these looks.

Inspiration can come from anywhere, and we hope we could inspire you by imparting valuable ideas to jumpstart your own renovation projects.

Change is good.

Nix Alañon
Editor-in-Chief



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Marsala and Gray

The right balance of bold and subdued colors

Produced by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob and Trish Zamora of Studio 100**
Additional photos courtesy of **Minotti**

Although commonly considered as the in-between of black and white, gray is a versatile color that can provide emphasis and make a statement. The different shades offer a delicate yet sophisticated feel, resulting in an interior that's comfortable in its own right. While gray alone can stimulate a relaxing ambiance, you may pair it with reddish brown Marsala, the color of the Year, to balance off the subdued palette with a deeper tone.



Anchor image from fengshuidana.com



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Marsala and Green

A daring combination for an upbeat home ambiance

Produced by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob and Trish Zamora of Studio 100**
Additional photos courtesy of **Minotti and Roche Bobois**

There are no limitations when it comes to combining Marsala with other equally striking colors. Because green is considered a neutral that goes well with a majority of colors, pairing it with Marsala can provide a lively, whimsical touch to your home. Any shade of green complements Marsala, so decide which tone to work around with and create a setup that best speaks of your personality and style.



Anchor image from ochre.net



***Aston* lounge chair,** price available upon request at Minotti



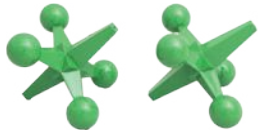
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Marsala and Tan

Added warmth from different shades of brown

Produced by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob and Trish Zamora of Studio 100**
Additional photo courtesy of **Minotti**

When using Marsala as the main color of a space, it is suggested that you offset its deep tone with neutral furniture pieces and accessories. Earthy browns like tan complement the richness of red, while the introduction of several shades of brown results in a well-balanced color palette. On the other hand, incorporating Marsala in a dominantly neutral setting gives any room a touch of warmth and elegance.



Anchor image from oliverburns.com



***Imola* chair,** price available upon request at BoConcept



Square planters, P850 (small) and P995 (large), available at Studio Dimensione



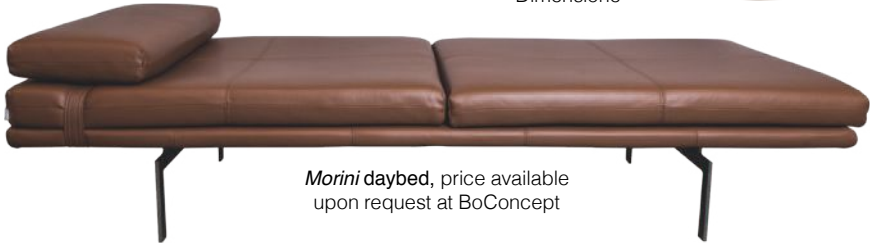
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Jar, P795, available at Studio Dimensione



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***Morini* daybed,** price available upon request at BoConcept



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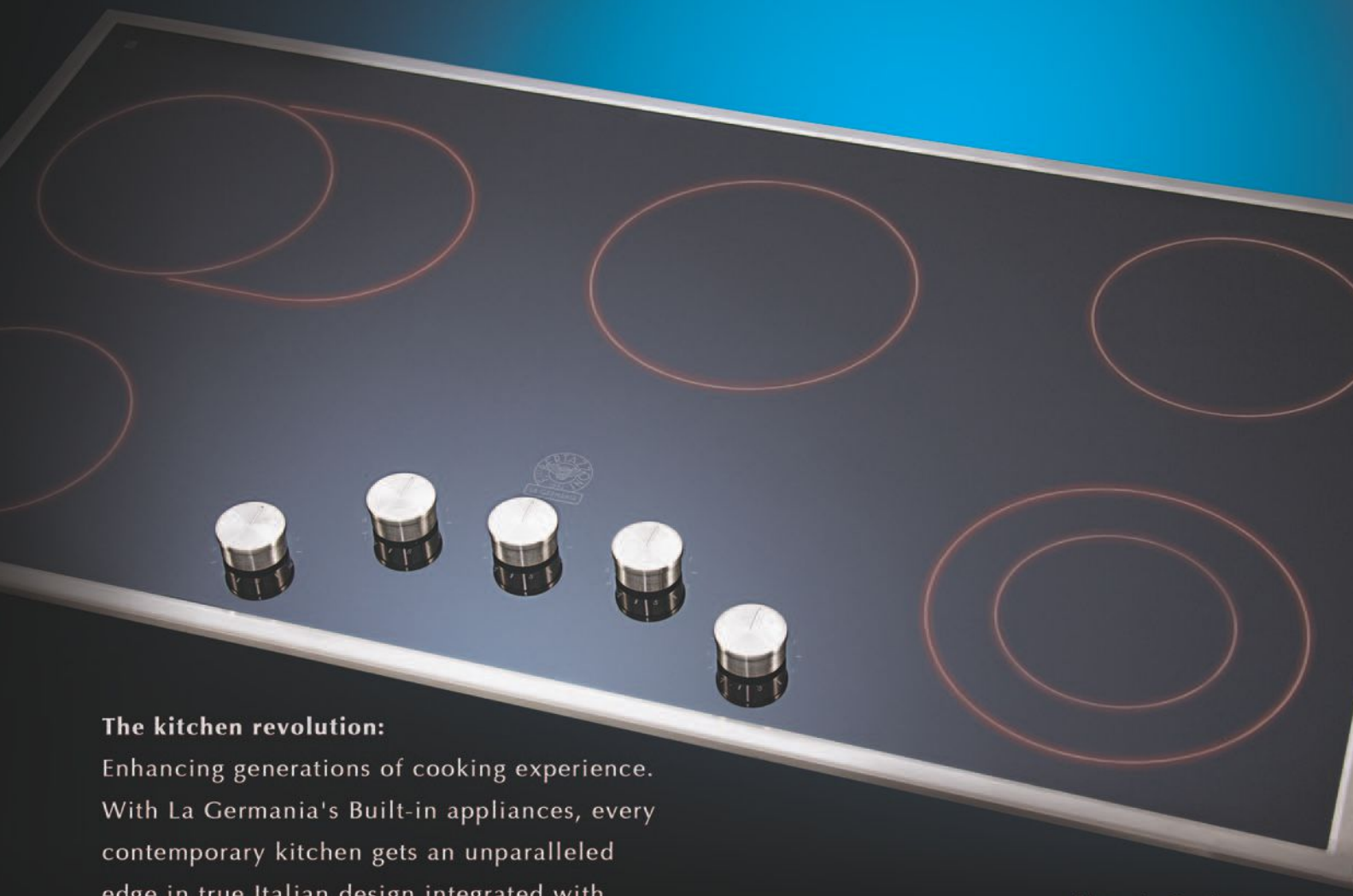
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Tile Tales

A fresh take on using tiles in modern-style home decorating

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photos courtesy of* **Bisazza Philippines**

More than just a flooring treatment, tiles have now become a popular trend in home decorating as they unexpectedly create a strong statement in any space. While tiles are commonly used in bathrooms and kitchens, they also serve as interesting wall art and catchy floor details in living areas. Tiles with striking patterns are perfect in a contemporary setting because these contrast the minimalist furniture designs. Mosaic and mural tiles, on the other hand, can be incorporated in rooms with no artwork acting as the focal point. Get a new perspective on renovating your home with these unique and daring executions of tiles.



Accent tiles are ideal for adding an exciting color in a space. However, using multiple colors can ruin the whole look. Stick to one dominant color, and focus on highlighting this palette without overdoing the interiors.



The best thing about bare walls is that they provide breathing space in a room. Aside from the ornate glass doors, the patterned flooring tiles inject character to the living space.



The daring use of modern furniture pieces and black-and-white tiles results in a sophisticated living area. Remember not to overplay by carelessly mixing whatever you want. Few noticeable pieces can likewise make a lasting impression than a cluttered look.



If you prefer a seamless design that speaks of a unified look, use similarly patterned tiles for both your flooring and walls. Accentuate the space with pieces that follow the basic color of the tiles, so that they all blend in yet stand out at the same time.



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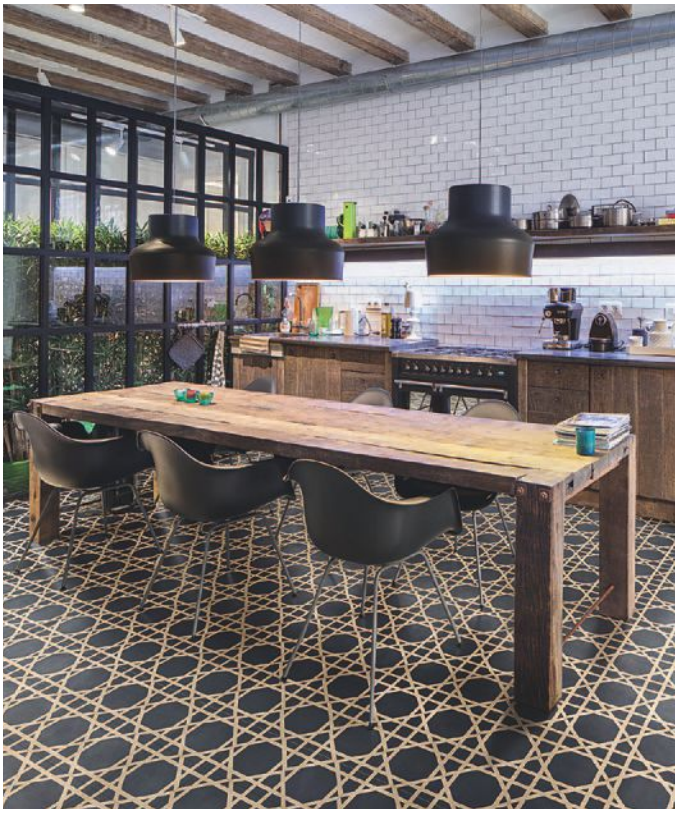
QUIET FOR LIFE



Tiles can help add to the ambiance of a space. The earth-toned furniture pieces and tiles make it even cozier. Use this color scheme in intimate areas of your home like the family room.



Entryways are good areas to highlight well-designed tiles. These hexagon tiles will effortlessly draw your guests' attention.



Choose a tile design that blends well with the overall theme of your home. A perfect example of this idea is the use of striking floor tiles in an industrial-style dining room.



Textures, colors, and patterns should always work together in interior design. In this case, the floor tiles act as the unifying element in the setting. The sofa and coffee table intentionally match the tile palette.

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BEST BUYS

If you're tired of using an area rug, an impressive alternative is a floor tile arrangement that looks exactly like one. This strategy is used to separate and highlight special areas in your home.





Tiles come in different shapes, sizes, and designs. These mosaic tiles are comprised of small tiles infused with intricate floral patterns. If you have remaining tiles from previous renovations, use them to create DIY cabinets, even personalizing them by cutting the tiles unevenly.





All tiles are available at Bisazza Philippines



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Wall Treats

Personalize your walls with unconventional wallpaper designs

Written by **Aisne Trinidad**
Photos courtesy of **Studio Eleven and Wallcrown**

Using wallpaper as an alternative to paint is a sure way of enhancing your home on a more personal level. Add character to bare and boring walls by choosing wallpaper that fully complements existing furniture pieces and accessories. Since wallpaper is a great source of colors, patterns, and textures, it's safe to say that this kind of treatment can effortlessly give your home a brand-new look.

In home decorating, individuality should always be given importance. Choose a wallpaper design that is not only visually appealing, but also serves as an expression of your lifestyle and personality.



Explore your boundaries with this *Tropical Birds* design that speaks of travel and freedom. Rightfully designed for wanderlusts, this neutral wallpaper is an inspirational reminder best placed in your living room or bedroom.

Cole & Son Frontier Collection *Tropical Birds* 89-1001

What's not to LOVE?



texture



detail



TR - T07

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Cole & Son Contemporary Restyled Collection *Flamingos* 95-8048



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Cole & Son Fornasetti Collection
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Contemporary Restyled is a collection that aims to breathe new life in home interiors. This *Flamingo* wallpaper becomes an unexpected elegant backdrop to the bright-colored console.







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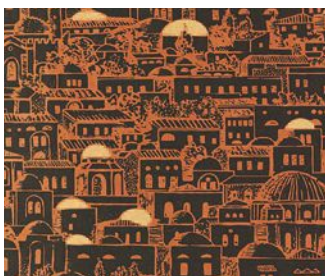
Cole & Son Fornasetti Collection
Malachite 77-7027



Cole & Son Fornasetti Collection
Il Sole 77-9033



Cole & Son Contemporary Restyled
Flamingos 95-8046



Cole & Son Fornasetti Collection
Mediterranean 77-5017

Repeated geometric patterns can add depth and texture in a modern setting. The *Shoji* design comes in different colors, and this one in particular naturally matches the home furnishings, making the space much cozier.



Scion Wabi Sabi Collection *Shoji* 110432

Studio Eleven G/F MG. Bldg., 150 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati *Phone* (02) 577 8722
Wallcrown Design Center Inc. 261 JP Rizal St., Brgy. San Roque (near 20th Ave. & P. Tuazon St.), Quezon City *Phone* (02) 291 1272 *Website* wallcrownphilippines.com





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Renovation Know-How

Planning to revamp your home? Before you get into full-on renovation mode, below are tips to keep in mind

Written by **Nix Alañon** | *Photos courtesy of* **Nix Alañon**

1 Study the space

Get the exact measurements of the pieces you want to put in the space to make sure that they fit. It is important to have crucial information such as the total area of the space you are working with, may it be a wall, floor, or the distances between furniture pieces. The last thing you want to happen is having picked out a sofa that is too big or small for your space.



Residential project of FTA Design in One Rockwell West Tower

2 Have a budget

Setting a budget helps you control costs and ensures that you don't get "bill-shocked" in the end. However, don't skimp by choosing sub-standard materials, as this will just incur more costs eventually. Also expect that much of the budget will be taken up by technical concerns (electrical wirings, air conditioning, etc.), so best to be prepared for these.

3 Conceptualize a design idea

It would help a lot to work with a theme so you don't get confused while sourcing for the things you need. Know which color scheme and finishes you are looking for, so you don't end up buying items that do not match or go well together, and picking up unnecessary things while shopping.



A renovation project isn't always as costly and time-consuming as it is perceived to be. Interior stylist Nix Alañon suggests, "To enliven a quiet room, use fabrics with different textures, tones, and patterns for a more layered look."



Residential project in Hamilo Coast with furniture pieces from Phoenix Home

4 Get a good finishing contractor

A lot of people make a big mistake by getting contractors or laborers on the cheap to work on their remodeling projects, thinking that they are able to save more by doing this. If you care about your hard-earned money and do not want to see your walls crumbling down and your paint peeling off after a year, invest on good workers. It may cost a bit more in the beginning, but it will surely last a lot longer.

5 Set a schedule

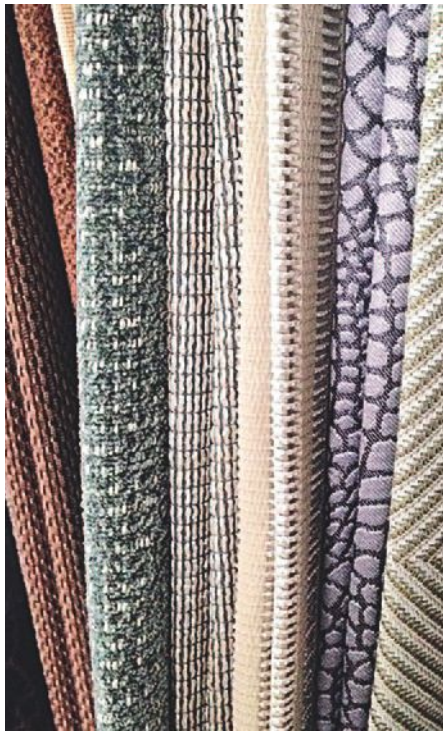
Keeping a project timeline in phases will keep everyone on track of the schedule. Ideally, this calendar should be enforced strictly, but due to unforeseen circumstances or delays, this could also be edited and adjusted. Do your best to stick to it!

6 Source and canvass well

Make a list and research on different lighting stores, tile centers, etc. before heading out. My advice is to visit home depots because they have a wide selection of suppliers and materials under one roof. This will help you select and reject your choices easily. If you see a certain item that you like, canvass from another supplier that carries a similar look or material before purchasing.

7 Test fabrics and paint colors under different lights

Colors have shades under different kinds of lighting. Best to test these under natural sunlight, but I also suggest trying them in the same room and lighting where you intend to put them, whether it be paint or fabric upholstery.



On-stock fabrics in Phoenix Home

8 Choose good hardware.

Hardware is something that you touch and use everyday. From your cabinet glides to door knobs to faucets, make sure you choose the best you can afford that will last you a long time.



Residential project that employs a modern Asian aesthetic

9 Bank on the power of illusion

If you want to make a small space seem larger, the clever use of mirrors does the trick. Avoid using baseboards or cornices painted in the same color as the wall in smaller areas, so you don't define the space. It's all about magic!

10 Plan and order ahead

Certain materials like tiles, fabrics, and hardware are ordered in advance. This is because some suppliers do not keep inventory at hand or may not have enough for the amount that you require. I strongly advise that you deal with this first before working on the other details. Get this out of the way as early as possible, so you do not get delayed because your tiles have not arrived.



Super Bee tile (31.5x31.5cm), available at Goldkeys

What's Cooking?

Ten kitchen tips that allow you to save time, energy, and money

Written by **Amyline Ching**
Photos courtesy of **Scavolini**

Celebrity chef Todd English hit on the perfect analogy when he compared the kitchen to a sports game and the chef to a coach. The kitchen, when you think about it, gets a lot more action than say, the living room or the bedroom. It's where you cook meals, wash dishes, chop food, bake pastries, reheat meals and about a dozen other things. And much like a sports team, the whole kitchen dynamic requires confluence, balance, and ease in relationships, making the room one of the hardest to design. From the landing space on each side of the stove (Imagine holding a hot pan with nowhere to put it on!) to the distance between your sink and stove, every inch should be logically and carefully planned out. Here are 10 must-dos, if you want a kitchen that screams efficient.



Diesel by Scavolini

1. Focus on the "holy trinity"

Plan where to put the sink, the stove, and the refrigerator, which are considered the "three legs" of the kitchen triangle. Efficient kitchens have no legs less than 4 feet or more than 6 feet in length. The former does not provide enough landing area between each workspace, while the latter's length is just too long (and therefore, too far) to be convenient.

2. Everything should be within reach

Put spices, cooking oils, ladles, and pans near the stove; plates near the dishwasher; garbage sacks near the sink; and microwave close to the refrigerator.

3. Use logic

The sink should be at the same side as the cooktop to avoid water dripping to the floor. The door of the refrigerator should open to the direction of the sink and the stove. The edge of countertops should extend at least a couple of inches from the cabinets below to give knee room and prevent spills from reaching the storage.

4. No crowding

Pathways in the kitchen should be at least 36 inches wide, and the cooking zone about 42 inches. There should be at least 3 feet space around the island.

5. Allow for ample landing space

Allot about 15 to 18 inches of countertop on each side of the sink, stove, and refrigerator to put the food you're about to cook, dirty dishes, or items you just took out of the refrigerator. Leave space around each kitchen appliance.

6. Mind the light

One bulb at the center of the room is not enough. Light should be strategically placed where the work areas are. Remember that a light fixture placed behind a person will only cast a shadow and will not serve you at all. Opt for lights under overhead cabinets or pendant lamps that shine directly on what you're doing.



Diesel by Scavolini



Diesel by Scavolini



Diesel by Scavolini



Flux by Scavolini

7. Maximize the space

Have cabinets reach the ceiling. Why sell yourself short when the gap between the cabinet top and the ceiling will just gather dust? If budget permits, consider see-through cabinet doors and pull-out shelves. Opt for deep drawers near the cooktop where you can store pots and pans. Use the ceiling, and hang ladles and pans. Furnish your drawers and cabinets with dividers and lazy Susans. Utilize corners and narrow vertical spaces.

8. Do double duty

For smaller kitchens, it is best that you equip it with items that have a lot of functions. For instance, an island on casters that you can move around the kitchen can double as a serving tray. A machine that does the chopping, slicing, juicing, dicing, grinding, mixing, and kneading with the right add-on is a more practical buy than three separate appliances.

9. Choose materials wisely

The quartz—the new darling of kitchen countertops—is impervious to heat, stain, and scratch. It does not require sealing and is good for baking. Granite is also a good choice, but it needs to be sealed at least once a year. Hard, natural stone is a good material for floors. Wood wears out easily while stone needs resealing.

10. Safety first!

Don't install outlets near the sink. Have slip-resistant floors. Put ovens, appliances, and sharp objects like knives out of children's reach. Also choose countertops with rounded corners.

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Kitchen Innovations

Make your kitchen as functional as it is refined with ELBA cooking appliances

Photos courtesy of **ELBA Philippines**



ELBA built-in hobs come in various sizes, meaning they can be installed in different locations within your kitchen.

The kitchen is often described as the heart of every home, and what supports its purpose is the right choice of cooking appliances. Different lifestyles determine specific needs for your appliances; therefore, it is vital that you make choices depending on your requirements. ELBA, which has a wide range of built-in products all designed and manufactured in Italy, meets the highest international standards and brings the latest innovations to your kitchen.

Integrated and Built-in Cooktops

ELBA's built-in cooktops offer flexibility and versatility, with its designs complementing a variety of countertop finishes and enabling you to place the cooktop exactly where you prefer. Mounted independently in an island counter, next to the oven, or directly above the oven, integrated cooktops give you more freedom when it comes to planning your kitchen layout.

- **Gas Cooktops** – Considered to be the traditional method of cooking, gas cooktops ensure variable heat control that is responsive and cost-efficient. ELBA's cooktops feature Sabaf® specialty burners equipped with safety devices that cut off the supply of gas when the flame is extinguished. It also comes equipped (on most models) with heavy duty yet stylish cast-iron pan supports for that professional look.
- **Vitroceramic Cooktops** – Featuring a ceramic glass cooktop for an elegant and easy to clean finish, these cooktops feature hi-light radiant zones that glow red when in use. For safety, these cooktops are equipped with residual heat indicators that indicate when the surface is cool enough and safe to touch.
- **Induction Cooktops** – ELBA's Induction technology is a great way to reduce cooking times by turning your cookware directly as the heat source. It minimizes energy consumption and accurately controls the temperatures with 90 percent efficiency. Induction cooktops stay cool to the touch, and spillages can be easily wiped away in seconds.

Integrated and Built-in Ovens

ELBA's built-in ovens are installed directly into the cavity of your kitchen cabinets, creating a seamless and streamlined look to your kitchen while saving floor space. If you are redesigning your kitchen, it's good to know that built-in ovens can be installed in-column, at waist-level, or under your countertop.

- **Fan-Assisted Gas Ovens** – A fan (located at the rear of the oven cavity) helps circulate the heat generated by heating elements, in order to yield faster cooking times than regular gas ovens and result in evenly cooked dishes all throughout. The powerful gas grill is perfect for adding the finishing touches of crisping, browning, or grilling to create that perfect dish.
- **Electric Convection Oven** – ELBA's convection ovens enable you to explore the chef within you! Its highly versatile multifunction programmer has up to 10 cooking modes, with various heat and fan combinations to help you carry out that recipe you've always wanted to try. Constant heat circulation enables balanced temperature distribution to ensure perfectly even dishes with up to 30 percent reduced cooking times.



ELBA's built-in cooktops are available in 30cm, 60cm, 70cm, 73cm, 77cm, and 90cm.

ELBA is available in all leading appliance stores nationwide and select depots in Metro Manila. For a list of its latest products, visit elbaphilippines.com.

Finishing Touches

Oftentimes, the trick to making a bold statement lies on what meets the eye

Produced by **Nix Alañon and Love Ocampo** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**

When decorating, it is essential to simultaneously determine your style while defining the purpose of each room. A good way of knowing what needs to be renovated at the moment is taking a good look on what's currently in your home and deciding which passes your style filter. The process continues with you setting a realistic budget and educating yourself by shopping around. Similar to how you would gather your finds—paint and fabric swatches, catalogue clippings, and printouts of online items—in a box, we have compiled six renovation suggestions that show the endless possibilities in dealing with finishing touches.





THE LIVING ROOM

Swatches

1. Hick's Grand 95/6037 by Cole & Son from Studio Eleven (Wallpaper)
2. Sheer wonders 47 Ivory from Townes (Curtain sheer fabric)
3. Smooch 39 Onyx from Townes (Curtains)
4. Chloe's Garen Lit CVR Cav Lar from Studio Eleven (Ottoman)
5. Linen Flin 15 Sterling from Studio Eleven (Sofa)
6. Patterned print from Phoenix Home (Throw Pillows)
7. Black Marquina from Euroasia (Coffee table top)
8. Stainless Steel Chrome finish (Coffee table base)
9. Calacatta White tile from Goldkeys (Floor)

Caesar Stone Felport International Marketing, 1577 G. Araneta Ave., Brgy. Manresa, SFDM, Quezon City *Phone* (02) 367 7591 *Email* felportmarketing@yahoo.com
Dunn Edwards Paints G/F MC Home Depot, 32nd St. corner Bonifacio Boulevard, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig *Phone* (02) 818 9800





Swatches

1. Modern Ivory DE6197 from Dunn Edwards (Ceiling paint)
2. Spice Market from Townes (Curtain)
3. Patterned print from Phoenix Home (Throw pillow)
4. Pine Cone from Townes (Throw pillow)
5. Stormy Day JJ54428-3 from Studio Eleven (Sofa)
6. Marble top from Carrara (Coffee table top)
7. Brass base finish (Coffee table base)
8. Mediterranean 77/5016 Fornasetti Collection from Studio Eleven (Wallpaper)
9. Walnut wood plank from Goldkeys (Floor)

Euroasia Philippines, Inc. G/F Realty Investment, Inc. Building, 195 EDSA, Mandaluyong City *Phone* (02) 725 9978 to 79 *Email* manpower@euroasia.com.ph
Goldkeys 66-N Kitanlad St., Brgy. Doña Josefa, Quezon City *Phone* (02) 711 4351, 711 1364



THE DINING ROOM

Swatches

1. Hicks' Hexagon by Cole & Son from Studio Eleven (Wallpaper)
2. Travertine HD White tile from Goldkeys (Floor)
3. German white from Euroasia (Table top)
4. Gray from Larry's (Seats)
5. Espresso from Studio Eleven (Throw pillow)
6. Lonely Road DE6146 from Dunn Edwards (Accent wall paint)



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Metro Tiles 2/F No. 228 Tomas Morato St. corner Scout De Guia St., Quezon City *Phone* (02) 411 1105 to 06 *Email* metro_tiles@yahoo.com





Swatches

1. Stainless steel chrome finish (Dining table base)
2. Fabric Ry from Larry's (Host chair)
3. Maroon Fine B/Out from Larry's (Chair)
4. Bevelled mirror from Ronald Mirror (Accent wall)
5. 6mm tempered bronze tint from Sunshine and Glass Aluminum (Dining table top)
6. Maple wood plank from Goldkeys (Floor)

Pacific Glass PGC, Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City *Phone* (02) 631 2215
Phoenix Home 6075 Palma St., Poblacion, Makati *Phone* (02) 901 4144 *Email* ftadesign@gmail.com





THE KITCHEN

Swatches

1. Coral, White Salmon from Studio Eleven (Throw pillows)
2. Cotton Depot (Seat)
3. Boat anchor DE6377 from Dunn Edwards (Cabinet Paint)
4. Limes white tile from Metro Tiles (Floor)
5. Arabes Cato from Euroasia (Countertop)
6. Victorian cornice from PCW Prima Moulding (Cornice for the ceiling)

Studio Eleven 150 MG Building, Amorsolo Street, Makati *Phone* (02) 894 1243 *Email* info@studio11fabrics.com
Sunshine Glass and Aluminum 1087 San Rafael St. corner Baranka Drive, Mandaluyong City *Phone* (02) 534 3105 *Email* sunshineglass@ymail.com





Swatches

1. German white from EuroAsia (Table top)
2. Black polyester from Mobilia (Cabinet)
3. Fap Ceramiche base pietra tile from Metro Tiles (Floor)
4. Enzo Velvets JJ54428 from Studio Eleven (Seat)
5. Metallic black from Pacific Glass (Graphicote)
6. Mosaici Carbone 7150 from Caesar Stone (Countertop)
7. Black crack finish from Phoenix Home (Drawers)
8. Black Apricot from Euroasia (Ceiling Veneer)
9. Platinum DE6367 from Dunn Edwards (Cabinet Paint)



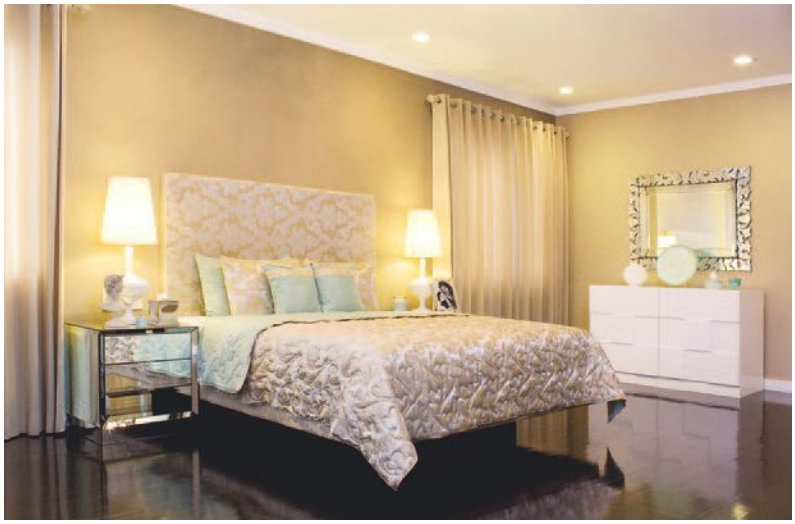
THE BEDROOM

Swatches

1. Bronze and brass steel tube from Phoenix Home (Side table legs)
2. Aluminum 11 from Townes (Lampshade)
3. Bungalow Taupe from Dunn Edwards (Wall paint)
4. Crisp Muslin DE6212 from Dunn Edwards (Side Table)
5. Smoke Oak 1 strip from Goldkeys (Floor)
6. Oak 6 from Townes
7. Sand from Studio Eleven (Throw pillows)
8. Recline Bamboo from Larry's (Throw pillows)
9. Enzo Velvet from Studio Eleven (Throw pillows)







Swatches

1. Mount Sterling DE6317 from Dunn Edwards (Wall)
2. Bannister Brown DE6069 from Dunn Edwards (Cabinets)
3. Breeze 18 from Studio Eleven (Headboard)
4. Slate gray from Studio Eleven (Curtains)
5. Earth of Zebra Collection from Studio 11 (Throw pillows)
6. Breeze from Studio Eleven (Throw pillows)
7. Walnut 1 strip wood plank from Goldkeys (Floor)

Color Therapy

Take your cue from nature and experiment with the color wheel

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**
Styled by **Camille Del Rosario, Aisne Trinidad, and Cy Yambao**

Colors are derived from the rich tones of the world: the calm oceans, lush greens, fresh produce, and many other elements from nature. Therefore, colors are in anything we lay our eyes on, and these infinite shades and hues are just equally fun to work with in interior design. We have chosen six stunning colors from the color wheel—including earthy red Marsala, Pantone's color of the year—in which you can get palette inspirations for your next renovation project.

Marsala is said to carry a neutral feel because of its subdued reddish tone that creates a warm and inviting atmosphere, especially when paired with other neutrals like beige or tan. Since it comes from the red color family, which is believed to stimulate one's appetite, it makes perfect sense to bathe your dining room in varying tones of Marsala.

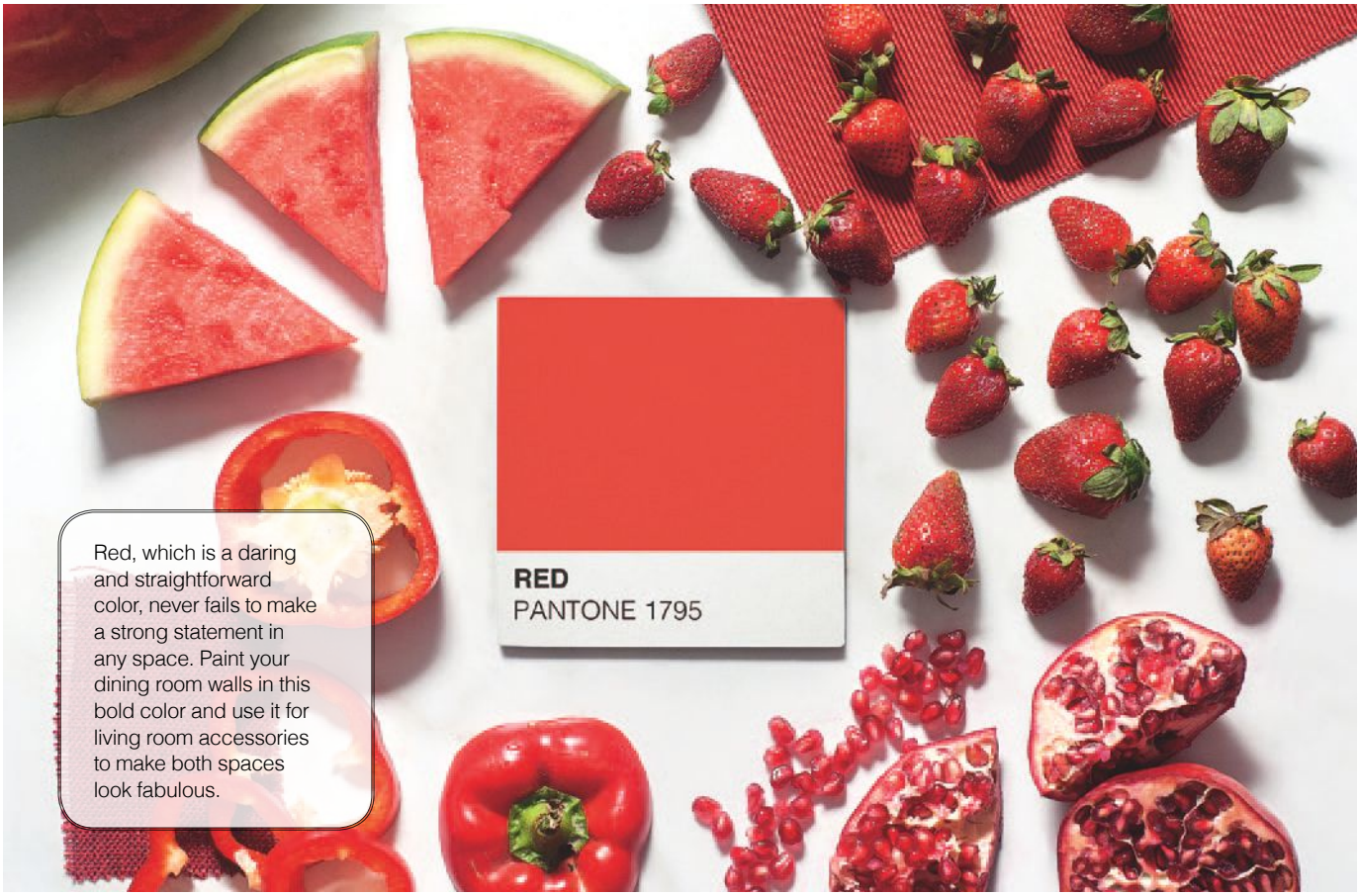



Because orange is a very welcoming color, you may use it as vibrant accents for your living room sofas. However, it can also be extremely striking, so add a bit of cool blues to balance the setup.
ORANGE
PANTONE 1585


As its deep tone suggests, purple is a color that represents luxury and royalty. Its color family includes bold violets, as well as more subdued hues like lilac, mauve, and lavender. Since purple is mentally-stimulating, it can be used in study rooms and home offices, while others who hope to achieve a stress-free sanctuary prefer to incorporate it in bedrooms.
PURPLE
PANTONE 511



You can never go wrong with yellow, as this color is always cheerful and full of life. It is used to create a sunny and happy atmosphere in your home. Inject this color—even just a small hint—in any corner to attract positive vibes.



Red, which is a daring and straightforward color, never fails to make a strong statement in any space. Paint your dining room walls in this bold color and use it for living room accessories to make both spaces look fabulous.



Whether in subtle touches or abundant bursts, the different hues of green always give a room a punch of freshness. This invigorating color is considered as a neutral for it can be teamed up with almost any other color. It is best to incorporate greens in bathrooms, as they promote growth and relaxation.

Easy as 1-2-3

Renovating ideas that call for a little imagination and add instant style without burning your pockets

Written by **Razel Estrella** | *Illustrated by* **Arthur Tselishchev**

Often we look around the house and think there's something missing or not right, yet we can't quite put our finger on it. More often than not, it only needs a little makeover. Just as we want to change our haircut from time to time to suit our mood, the season, or due to plain boredom, we want to give our nest that much-deserved pampering. Not sure where to start? Here are 20 ideas to get you going.

1 Paint the front door

Bold colors make for a strong statement. If it clashes with your personality, choose a color that complements the house paint yet still pops out. Add light fixtures to give visitors a warm welcome.



2 Consider murals

Have something beautiful and meaningful painted on the walls, like your favorite vacation spot or a word or quote in attractive typography. A mural is one way to truly revamp and personalize your space.



3 Curate a mini gallery

Instead of simply hanging photos on an empty wall, think of a theme. Get color-coordinated frames, so that no matter what pictures you put in them, the wall will maintain a cohesive look. Another tip is to gather photos with the same subject, such as those you took while traveling, family photos, or even clippings of your grandma's recipes.



4 Use unused tableware for storage

That small Chinaware with fancy patterns can hold jewelry by the bedside table. That teacup that has lost its saucer can serve as hair accessories container, and that extra wine decanter as a flower vase.

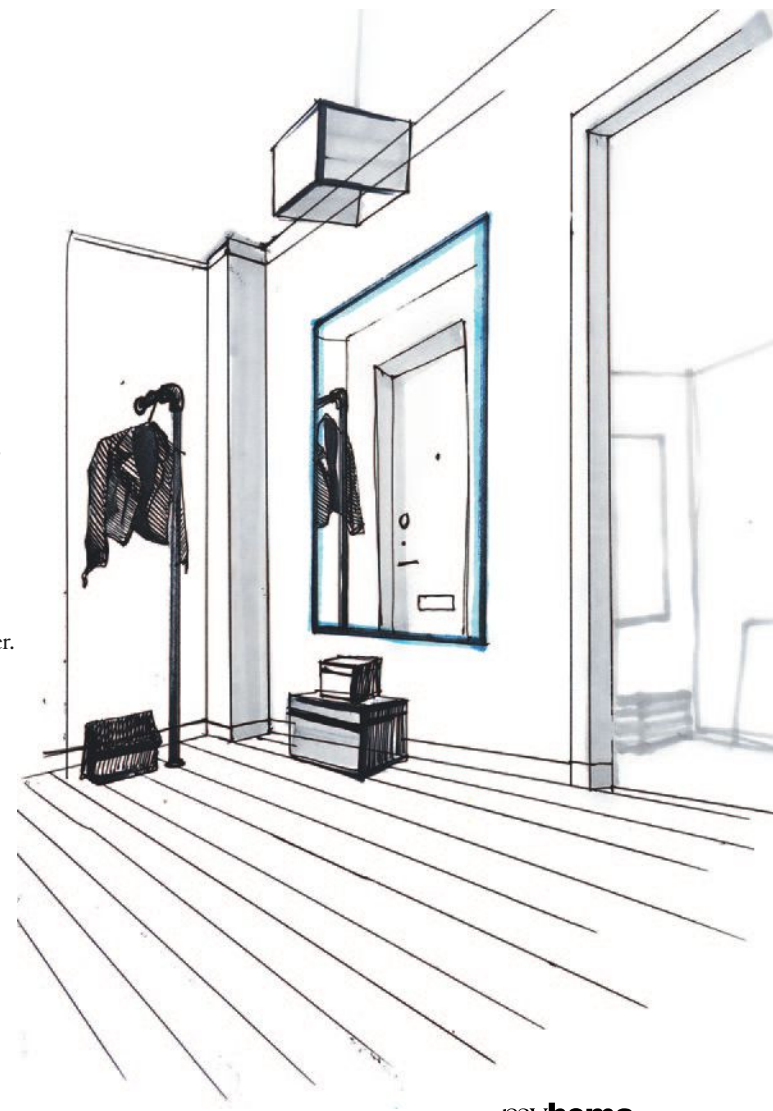


5 Recycle bangles and bracelets

These can function as dainty—even quirky—napkin rings, perfect when entertaining guests.

6 Put large mirrors opposite of windows

Doing so increases natural light and of course creates the illusion of space. Creating a gallery of mirrors is also a design ace for the form and function it provides.



7 Reupholster couches

Buy a nice fabric and stretch your sewing muscles. The couches and sofa are the main attractions of the living room, thus giving it a new skin is a quick way to achieve a fresh look. If doing it yourself is not an option, check the yellow pages for furniture re-upholstery, or contact the store where you bought the couch and ask if they offer the service.



8 Get creative with cabinets and shelves

For an old cabinet, take the door off and turn it into a shelf. Paint the inside or line the back with wallpaper. The same goes with bookshelves. Line the back with wallpaper, mirror, or cloth.

9 Drape the headboard with quilt or matching fabric

This is especially good for those boring metal headboards. A variation is to hang a curtain behind the headboard.

10 Experiment with bed sheets

Instead of buying a new set of bed linens, mix and match those that you currently have and get ready to surprise yourself. A different combination of colors and patterns provides a whole new vibe to the bedroom.

11 Beautify bins

Just because you throw trash in it, it has to look trashy. Those excess wallpapers and paint can cover and brighten up a worn or dull bin.

12 Re-arrange furniture

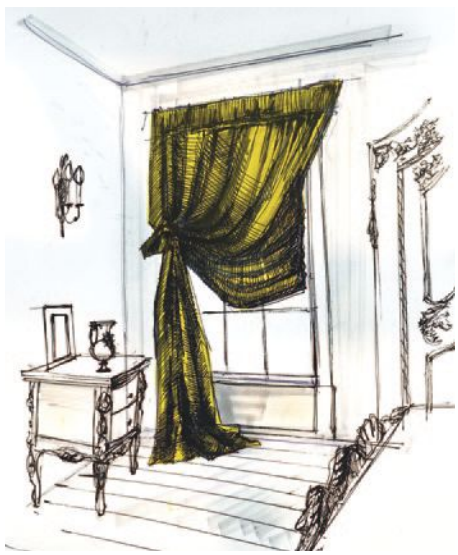
Think of it as taking a different route on your way home. Rearranging furniture can give you something excited to look forward to when coming home, and it can change your habits for the better. Another upside to this is it allows you to discover spots that might need repair and cleaning up.





13 Change light bulbs

Probably the simplest thing you can do that will generate the biggest impact. Change not only the shape of the light bulb but also its shade. If you wish to go further in playing with light, go for dimmers.



14 Embrace black lampshades

Designer Jennifer Garrigues says, "If you want a little drama in your life, change the color of your lampshades to black. Much more dramatic, and it creates lovely pools of light, along with a little punctuation, in a room." She also suggests lining the shades in gold paper "to add a little sparkle."

15 Give curtains an edge

Add braids, tassels, or fringes on the edges of curtains. You may also sew appliqués or dye plain cotton curtains.

16 Treat yourself to new accessories

The toiletries holder and countertop storage (jars, spice racks, etc.) may seem like small things, but when they blend harmoniously with each area's theme, they may well serve as tiny design pieces.

17 Show the ceiling some love

Don't forget the ceiling. Give it its due repaint or, for something more impressive, cover it in wallpaper. It's a nice contrast when the walls and floor are plain.

18 Create a tile collage

It's fun and addicting to conceptualize. Don't rush with this one, though. Collect tiles that really speak to you and go well together. Remember that when done right, it can rival any work of art, but can cause renovating hassle if executed carelessly.

19 De-clutter

Sometimes a makeover is simply a matter of editing.Throw away unnecessary items to carve breathing spaces. How to determine what to discard? It's safe to say you can live without what you haven't used or touched in the last five years.

20 Add scent

Smell is often overlooked in design and decoration. Various room sprays, mists, and linen fragrance are available in the market, but for its health benefits, it's best to diffuse essential oils in the different rooms of the house.



Sometimes a makeover is simply a matter of editing. Throw away unnecessary items to carve breathing spaces

CONTEMPORARY COZY

When modern is mixed with traditional, the refreshing result is a sure inspiration

Written by **Andy Portugal**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**



If the essence of this Information Age we live in could be summed up in one word, a good candidate would be fusion. Information, ideas, and concepts from all over the world have never been as accessible. As a result, we see fusion in cuisine, design, entertainment, and across our daily lives in general. A favorite pairing in interiors is the fusion of sleek and modern along with cozy and traditional. In this home in particular, a collaborative effort between the owners, the architect, and the interior designers was key to achieving a fine balance between both.

"We wanted a house that is simple but elegant in form, functional in sectioning, and homey in ambiance," says the man of the house. The couple envisioned a minimalist design with a subdued color palette accentuated by natural elements throughout the U-shaped structure.

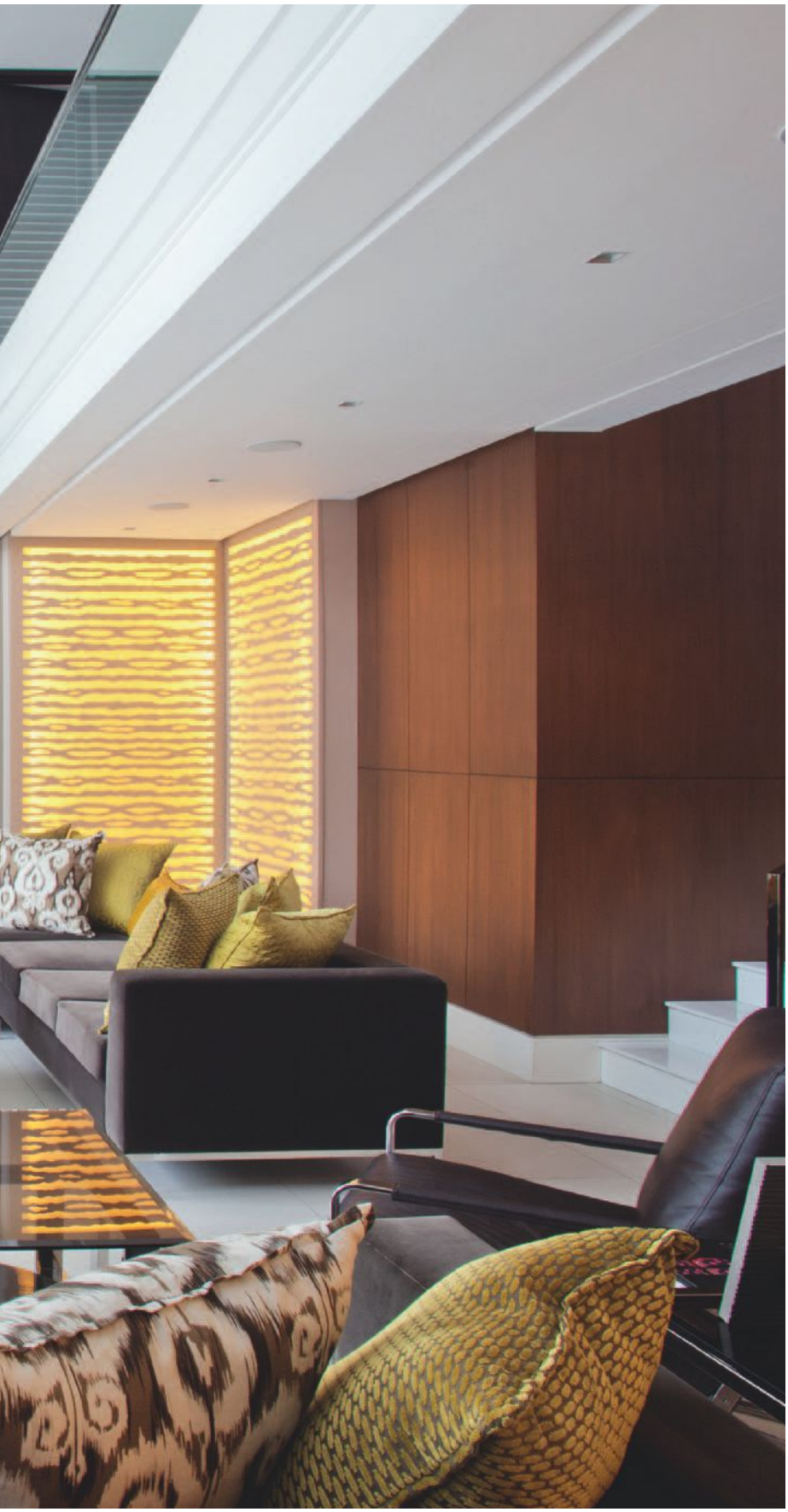
One such element is water. "We wanted a water feature to play prominently in the design, that's why the architect placed the pool inside the U-structure," explains the owner, who brought the Almario sisters on board for the project as well. "Ivy and Cynthia suggested the wall water feature across the formal dining area," he adds. A view of a water feature from any point within the home adds a sense of resort-like calm.



"The entertainment area is perhaps the most visited place of the house because it has a complete karaoke, television, and movie player system, plus the piano. The sliding doors facing the poolside make for a resort feel without losing the lofty touch of home," shares the man of the house.

Modern furniture set against a backdrop of wood panels custom-designed by Atelier Almario give warmth to the home, softening the overall contemporary look in a smooth and seamless manner.





Another element is wood. Custom-made wood panels can be seen throughout the house and is fondly referred to as its DNA. The panels serve as screens to hide the entertainment system in the family room, as well as sliding doors to section off different areas on the ground floor. In the living room, plain walls lined with fabric transform into accent walls with a flick of a switch, revealing the same wood panels backlit against the fabric.

Along with other subtle yet impactful accents around the home, the design narrative successfully melds modern sophistication with traditional warmth. "We felt that with the imaginative input of the architect and the creativity and taste of the interior designers, we were able to build a house that more than met our expectations," says the owner. "Its appeal, we think, comes from the fact that is has an appearance of grandness but is not loud."

A success story of fusion in design, the man of the house has much to be proud of. "Its physical design, where natural light and air can come into any section of the house, is an architectural genius," he explains. "That it has a vantage point from the second floor hallway, where you can view almost all parts of the house including the pool outside, gives us a feeling of oneness and wholeness. Truly this is an ideal house on which to build a happy home." We couldn't agree more.



Designed to complement the home's resort ambiance, a glass chandelier hangs above the formal living room like a floating cloud. The loft balcony connects the children's rooms on one wing to the master bedroom on the other.



The harmonious interplay of modern and natural elements is further illustrated in the formal dining room. The lighting fixture inspired by bells adds a subtle touch of whimsy to the room and "accentuates the otherwise plain formal dining theme," the owner explains.



Branching off of the formal dining room is a patio area that is also used for entertaining. It is enclosed on the far end by a wall waterfall that lends an air of calmness to the space and sets the tone for a relaxed atmosphere.

Along with other subtle yet impactful accents around the home, the design narrative successfully melds modern sophistication with traditional warmth

"[The house's] appeal, we think, comes from the fact that is has an appearance of grandness but is not loud"



Lining the staircase are traditionally designed balusters made with turned-glass. This is yet another example of how the owners and designers came up with creative ways to build on the contemporary cozy design story.



Textured mother-of-pearl walls breathe classic elegance into the powder room, which is further accentuated by floor-to-ceiling mirrors on one side.



The family room is situated in the children's side of the second floor, and is where they normally hang out with friends. Gray and orange ottomans function both as tables and extra seating, following the overall versatile vibe of the space.





Left: Each of the three children have their own bedrooms on one side of the house. “They each had a hand in designing their rooms, choosing the colors and themes they wanted,” relates interior designer Cynthia Almario. The eldest daughter went with a vivid room that follows a punchy citrus palette.
Right: Cool hues of blue and classic lines dominate the son’s room. Right outside his windows is a full view of the pool below.









Left: The youngest daughter preferred a shabby chic room with hints of the contemporary. She chose a softer pastel palette accentuated by gold furniture and elegantly whimsical wallpaper.
Right: Atelier Almario's signature touch of curated accessories enhances the personalities of every space, pulling everything together through thoughtful vignettes such as the above.

TURNING TABLES

A newlywed couple gives their first home a classically chic makeover

Written by **Andy Portugal**
Photographed by **Oliver Echiverria**



There is a certain kind of thrill that comes with building a house from the ground up. The idea of seeing your future home literally rise up is as anxiety-ridden (mostly the good kind) as it is exciting. On the other hand, there is also something to be said about renovating an existing house. The prospect of breathing new life into an old space is refreshing and equally exciting in its own right. For Cebu-based interior designer Janet Lee's renovation project, the challenge lay in bringing a contemporary spin to a home built on tradition, while keeping its old-world charm.

At the time, Janet's client was preparing to get married and start a family of his own in the house he grew up in. His father's only request was that they retain the family's traditional dark wood furniture, creating a gap with the couple's desire for a bright contemporary home. "We couldn't really transform the space to modern contemporary because we would be retaining some of the traditional furniture for sentimental reasons," says Janet. "So I did my research and came up with an Asian luxe design."



Mixed prints and textures add depth and character to the warm subdued tones in the living room. The chesterfield sofa highlights the space, balancing out the heavier solid wood furniture.

The challenge lay in bringing a contemporary spin to a home built on tradition, while keeping its old-world charm





Anchored by the family's treasured rosewood furniture, the living room exudes elegance and warmth effortlessly. The metallic shells and stone plates on the tufted ottoman coffee table are from Alison Tyler.



"The couple of the house has elegant taste: simple yet sophisticated," says Janet of her clients. "They wanted to transform the house and brighten up the space for a more friendly and inviting atmosphere."



Janet's Asian luxe design was primarily inspired by the client's heirloom rosewood furniture. The mother of pearl inlay comes to life in the dining area, set against a backdrop of neutral tones.



Geometric cuts on the wall mirror subtly add character and texture to the dining area, while opening up the space at the same time.





The home's sleek kitchen is where the family usually has their meals. A chandelier from Illuminazione gives the contemporary space the luxe touch that is seen throughout the home.

The epicenter of this design story is on the ground floor, where traditional and modern pieces alike paint a picture of harmony set against a warm neutral palette. The space is equal parts sophisticated and charming, luxe and cozy. Janet relates that one of the biggest challenges was pulling off the concept, having to transform the look of the space from classic traditional to Asian modern luxe.

"Before, the living room looked very traditional Chinese, with the rosewood furniture with mother of pearl inlay. These are indispensable for they have sentimental value to the client's family," explains Janet. "We had to add cushions to the rosewood furniture, as well as a chesterfield sofa to highlight the room." Upholstered pieces were custom-built to soften the space anchored by the heavier solid wood pieces.

Another design challenge that Janet faced was having to complete the project while the owners were still living in the house. Luckily, the future couple of the house was both collaborative and cooperative. "We worked closely. The clients were very much involved in this project. The future lady of the house even helped me source for materials and accessories from Cebu, Hong Kong, and America," shares Janet.

The common goal of any renovation project is to inject new life into an old space. It takes the hand of a good designer to do just that while maintaining the heart and soul of the said space. "I enjoyed designing every corner of this house. They gave me the freedom to express myself," recalls Janet. "They imparted on me their trust and confidence in my perception and design. As a designer, this gives me a feeling of fulfilment."

"We worked closely. The clients were very much involved in this project"



Among Janet's favorite rooms is the master bedroom. "It has this warm and homey feel. I love the monochromatic look of this room, mixing different shades of brown. You can really relax, unwind and be yourself, and have a good night's sleep," she shares. "My clients wanted a minimalist look like that of a hotel because they travel a lot."







The common goal of any renovation project is to inject new life into an old space

Top left: A customized work desk sits in one corner of the master bedroom. “Everything in this bedroom was done locally. We used more natural wood and warm colors to create a homey feel,” says Janet.
Top Right: Further hints that the family enjoys travelling can be seen in the walk-in closet.
Left: The powder room is another of Janet’s favorite spaces in the home. The wall mural and herringbone-patterned floor tiles give the space a distinct charm, while keeping in theme with the home’s overall elegant yet cozy atmosphere.



HOME BASICS

Owner: An equestrian couple
Style: This contemporary eclectic home incorporates an earthy color palette, wooden features, and eye-catching pieces that convey the couple's primary interest.



GLASS BOX

The home of an equestrian couple is brimming with wooden features and significant references to their most loved sport

Written by **Nina Mendoza**
Photographed by **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

Dubbed as contemporary eclectic, this home owned by an equestrian couple expresses love for simple things yet speaks of an understanding for an exquisite aesthetic. It is intended to be an ode to Ralph Lauren Home, whose old-world feel was combined with contemporary lines, and complemented by both vintage and modern furniture pieces. Through the help of interior designer Dara Uy, one can immediately tell how much beauty radiates from the simplistic design approach with just a glimpse.

"I had a lot of liberty in designing this house," says Dara. "The couple approved the concept I presented because it is similar to how they imagined their house to be." Despite facing the challenge of finishing within only a short period, the turnover of the house came in less than a year.

Dara banked on the couple's primary

The living room is consistently designed with different tones of wood, as seen in the staircase and the major furniture pieces. The wood and glass staircase is an interior architectural feature of the house that compliments the glass-paneled doors framing the room.



Another Arturo Luz painting, which is part of the family's old art collection, hangs by the stairs. The console table by the staircase is likewise an existing piece from the homeowners.



The woven wood design of the ceiling serves as a conversation piece because of its unique form. The center, side, and nesting tables were custom-made, maintaining the use of wood in the space. Orange throw pillows add a pop of color to an otherwise earth-toned area, while an *abaca* rug from Triple A was placed as a central accent.



The foyer showcases an Arturo Luz painting, which is paired with blue geometric stools that accentuate the lines of the artwork.

"The couple approved the concept I presented because it is similar to how they imagined their house to be"



Taking the spotlight in the dining area are the wooden table and chairs supplied by Ricky Baylosis and E. Murio, respectively. The pendant light crowning the dining set was sourced from Keystone.



This small nook displays the couple's numerous memorabilia such as awards, trophies, and family photos. The shelves have a marble top that continues to the adjacent wall.





Left: The second floor landing houses a stuffed armchair with an accompanying ottoman, as well as a side table topped with a horse statuette and frames conveying horseback riding—a sport enjoyed by the couple. Because of the simple layout, the accent chair becomes the focal point with its striped upholstery in shades of white and brown. **Right:** The master bedroom incorporates the same glass walls surrounding both the living and dining areas. Unlike the other areas of the home, the walls of this bedroom are painted in moss green, while the rest of the furniture pieces follow a neutral palette. The dark wood used for the furniture complements the room's wooden floorboards.

"I think you just have to build it up. Start with the big pieces and work your way from there"



interest to create a design that reflects their lifestyle as equestrians and polo players. The home is adorned with horses in the form of statuettes, paintings, and prints that depict the symbolic animal. The living and dining areas are enclosed in glass doors and windows, letting the sun's rays pass through for a brighter atmosphere and making the outdoors an instant backdrop. The ground floor layout allows the owners to entertain guests as it provides easy access to all areas and suggests a relaxing ambiance amidst a natural setting.

"I like the living room the most since it opens to the dining room, kitchen, and *al fresco* area," shares Dara. It also gives a view of the wood and glass staircase, which is an interior architectural feature of the house. Earthy tones envelope the entire home, with touches of orange bringing a pop of color to various areas. Different tones of wood are employed to give a sense of depth to the design, while compelling artwork and accessories add character to the plain empty walls. These include several paintings by artist Arturo Luz, most of which are taken from the family's old art collection. When asked how she experiments with different colors, patterns, and textures,
Dara says: "I think you just have to build it up. Start with the big pieces and work your way from there."



"I am drawn to European pieces; my husband veers toward Filipino antiques," says a jewelry designer and mother of three, whose spacious living area is a perfect marriage of the two preferred styles. While the couple is partial to antique pieces, they are able to create breathing spaces with just the right balance of old and new. Also evident is the family's love for art, such as the center painting (entitled *Just Married*) commissioned by the man of the house from Alfredo Esquillo, Jr. as a wedding gift to his wife, which is flanked by two early works by national artist Arturo Luz.

BREATHING SPACE

A couple makes the big move, but retains the pieces closest to their hearts

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**



"It's the complete opposite of where we used to live," begins a jewelry designer and mother of three, whose growing family moved into a much spacious house less than two years ago. "In our old place, there was a lot of color—everything was red. I liked it, but it got a little too busy, so I wanted more neutral white walls."

This time around, the couple veered away from the artsy ambiance that enveloped their former abode, and decided to employ a subdued palette that would result in a timeless design. This required injecting the contemporary home with a more classic aesthetic, starting off with replacing the laminate flooring with real wood stained to a darker finish and raising the ceiling. While the couple brought along their most prized antiques, one-of-a-kind vintage pieces, and countless artwork, there is a noticeable difference now that their home has more than enough breathing space.

A major reason why the couple opted to keep the walls white was their habit of constantly rotating their paintings. "It's hard to rotate paintings when you have colored walls, as they may not always complement each other," the lady of the house explains. They are also comfortable about going against the norm, such as arranging the paintings in a more natural manner, instead of always



“I’ve always thought it was easy and ideal to find an office and work there, but I find that I can think more freely and creatively in my home,” the lady of the house reveals. Hanging above her E. Murio work desk and chair is a painting by contemporary artist Jigger Cruz, which is one of the family’s most recent acquisitions.



The former family home was so small that it didn't permit owning a piano. Now that there's ample space for it to fit, the couple bought one for their children to learn how to play.



The Art Deco-style console table is a hand-me-down from the man of the house's family. A sculpture by Jigger Cruz sits in front of a large 19th century gilded mirror that the couple bought from a collector.

"We'll put certain things in places that are unexpected. We don't like predictability when it comes to design—we want it more spontaneous, so that it is dynamic, unique, and never boring"



The lady of the house has a penchant for European pieces, particularly this vintage hand-carved alabaster vase that she considers one of her favorites. It is set against a large woven painting by Alfredo Esquillo, Jr., which the couple had commissioned for the birth of their daughter.



An artwork by Art Sanchez, Jr., who incorporates mirrors in his works, serves as a striking welcome element in the foyer. The Muslim *baul* with mother-of-pearl inlay is a hand-me-down from the lady of the house's great grandmother, and is used to store her collection of vintage fabric, dresses, and ternos.



A 19th century *narra botica* cabinet with sterling silver handles, which served as storage for medicines back in the day, was converted into a bookcase that also serves as a cabinet for curiosities. On top of the bookcase is a sterling silver urn and alabaster objects flanked by a pair of *blanc de chine* jars, all of which were purchased by the couple from different antique collectors.

following the conventional way of doing things. This must be why a striking artwork by contemporary artist Jigger Cruz hangs above her work desk, while a trio of jewelry plates by national artist Arturo Luz accentuates the powder room walls. "We'll put certain things in places that are unexpected. We don't like predictability when it comes to design—we want it more spontaneous, so that it is dynamic, unique, and never boring," the lady of the house adds.

Such spontaneity urges the couple to look for pieces that inadvertently catch their eye, and to design merely according to what feels right. "We acquire things based on what we fall in love with because it's much easier to find a place for it in our home. Sometimes, even if we don't know yet where to put it, everything's just anchored on instinct," shares the lady of the house. She and her husband enjoy scouring through flea markets, then pairing their antique shop finds with sentimental hand-me-downs from both her and her husband's families. This is not to say that the couple's home stimulates a heavy atmosphere; it all boils down to achieving the perfect balance between the traditional and the contemporary.

"I think if you listen to and follow your instincts, it's impossible for your home to look like somebody else's," says the lady of the house, who is not one to enter a furniture showroom and buy an entire living room setup. "Everything in our home was personally chosen by us, so each piece here I like and can confidently talk about. When you put all these together, it becomes a very personal experience that even people who visit will feel that personal touch."

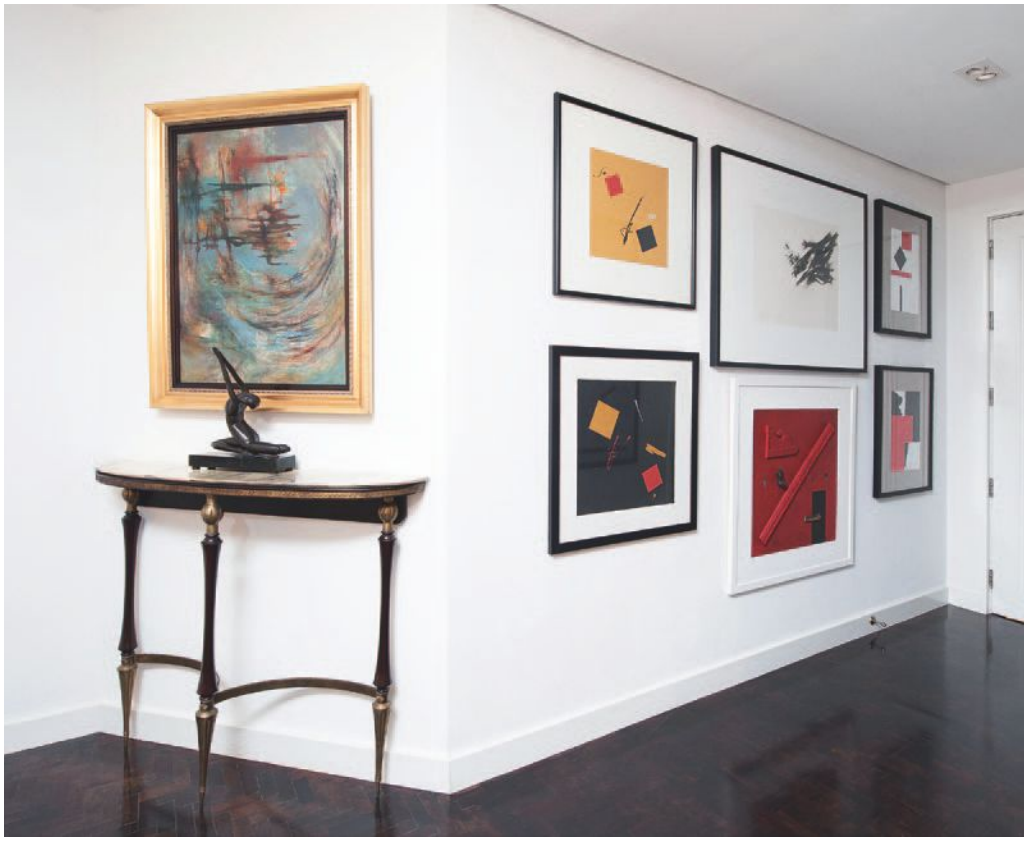
Apart from the contemporary artists that the couple admires, they likewise have several of Arturo Luz's work displayed.

"I'm most comfortable in our dining room because that's where I spend the most time with my kids," the lady of the house shares. "We specifically wanted an 8-seater dining table, so it can accommodate all of us now that we're a big family."









Above: On the right side of the dining area is a vintage Biedermeier neo-classic commode flanked by a pair of 19th century Chinese pedestals topped with antique vases. The artwork positioned between Baccarat crystal candelabras is by Macario Vitalis, while the smaller paintings are by Jigger Cruz.

Left: "We have a lot of console tables because there are just so many pieces that we want to highlight," the lady of the house says. A 1950s Juvenal Sanso painting hangs above one, while a row of artwork by Fernando Zobel (top center) and Arturo Luz fill the adjacent wall.



There wasn't much that the lady of the house can do with the modern-style powder room, as replacing the wall and floor tiles would entail a lot of work. But to make its design cohesive with the rest of the house and to give the space a more personal feel, she added a silver chicken figurine, a patterned area rug, and jewelry plates from Arturo Luz.

SUSTAINABLE RHYTHMS

An Eco House is anchored on sensible space planning and minimalist modern design

Written by **Reuben Ramas Cañete, Ph.D.** | *Photographed by* **Ed Simon of Studio 100**



A harmony of whites, grays, and greens, the façade of the Eco House designed by Architect James Jao suggests both Modernist vigor and natural rhythms. Its angular lines are softened by the curves of the pond and the foliage. Concrete pavers and the stone-finished water feature further breaks down the rigidity of lines, making for a more relaxed vista.



Modern luxury goes hand-in-hand with traditional beliefs. Keeping to a palette of browns, tans, and ecrus, the living room is easy to clean and wears its age well. The lucky golden coins on the wall bring good luck and contrast the geometrical furnishings.

Combining modern design with contemporary tropical livability has always been a delicate tightrope act. The need to humanize a house that the homeowners can be comfortable living in for years always involves the right balance of aesthetics, adaptability, and sensible design that can respond to the ever-changing needs brought about by weather, usability, and culture.

Cebu-based architect James Jao, whose works marry good design with specific client needs, designed a two-storey, 360-square meter Eco House for a Filipino-Chinese couple living in Northern Mindanao. Built within a 689-sqaure meter lot in an urban suburb, the Eco House has plenty of room to accommodate both sustainable planning of spaces and soaring modern design motifs despite its small size. With a west-facing plot potentially warming the house most of the time, James used a technological solution, as well as a space planning strategy, to cool it off. The first was via a pre-engineered James Hardie Thermawall for exterior surfaces that keep heat away, allied with Low-E Glass and Double Pane windows for thermal reflection and cool insulation of rooms. These were then coupled with Plasmawall interior partitions, also from James Hardie, to diffuse internal heat buildup.

The second solution was to employ an open plan layout for the interiors in order to maximize ventilation. The house is thus braced using only retaining walls on the outside, keeping the interiors clear to





Keeping to a minimal ecru white makes the walls look clean and tones down the sunlight dazzle to a more muted ivory. Vibrant accents are limited to tapestry panels on the wall, abstract fish sculptures on steel and glass console tables, the Taiping carpet, and mocha brown throw pillows.



The Eco House has plenty of room to accommodate both sustainable planning of spaces and soaring modern design motifs despite its small size



allow maximum air circulation within the "monolithic" structure. Lawns with a pond were then planted on the southwest side to utilize the greens on the afternoon sun side, and increase the amount of vegetation coverage and water moisture. Permeable concrete pavers were also installed on the driveway to minimize rainwater runoff, while the northwest-facing garage roof partially shields the house with its own roof.

Being a James Jao design meant that the Eco House is minimalist modern and convenient to use. Its courtyard-like living room and overlooking bedroom wing balcony keep the lines clean and heat buildup minimal. The house's rear combines the kitchen, guestroom, and roofed patio for a comfortable and well-ventilated east side, where the upper storey bedrooms also face. Sticking to a minimalist palette of beige creams and oyster grays with touches of brown, James manages to keep the Eco House's interiors elegant and simple, allowing colors only on accents like wall panel compositions, swivel chairs, and ottomans.

All the wood elements such as the main door, bedroom accents, stairwell, and second floor timbering are from engineered wood care of Matimco, keeping the environmental theme of the Eco House consistent and ethical.

"Our new house gave us good luck," the owners note with pride. "It is very easy to clean, and our children can finally have all the space they need for playing and resting. It's also quite cool; we could barely count the number of days when we use fans and air-conditioning." All these factors, coupled with the owners' *feng shui* beliefs, prove how the Eco House sustains the environmental logic of sensibly planned and tropically adjusted Modernist design, without sacrificing lived convenience or design aesthetics to achieve a point.

Keeping to a palette of oyster grays and powder tans also helps keep the kitchen cool and relaxing, while utensils and food provide the contrasting colors. The white countertop and ecru elements maintain the clean look without being blindingly antiseptic.









Left: To make the family room playful but still formal, it is bathed in powder grays, tans, and mocha browns. Variations of cubes and regular patterns are maintained by both fabric patterns and furnishings, making them look compatible.
Top Right: The light tans and whites of the fabrics in the master bedroom offset the darker floor and bed sheets. Ecru ceilings continue the clean motif skyward, while matching bedside consoles and lamps keep the horizon level to a minimal but relaxed look.
Bottom Right: The rear side patio becomes a morning room, thanks to its harmony of ecru whites for the walls, oyster grays for the furnishings, and accents of brown primarily from ceiling fans and throw pillows. Facing the morning sun, the indoor patio provides a suitable beginning of the day, acknowledging how harmony and rhythm are essential aspects of daily life.

Happy Pill

Located in a dynamic neighborhood, Plus63 Design Co. stimulates creativity and change

Produced by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Trish Zamora of Studio 100**



"Part of our mission is to organize projects that will promote design education, and enrich social and graphic design to further uplift the Philippine design community," says Plus63 Design Co. co-founder Dan Matutina. His desk is comprised mainly of a laptop plugged into an external monitor, with a Bauhaus poster and an entire glass board filled with work reminders in the background.



A meeting table is conveniently positioned near what Dan calls "random" shelves, which are filled with design books, toys, and artwork. Among the many pieces are a sculpture by Leeroy New and a framed illustration by Marcus Nada of Electrolychee Studio.

1. How would you describe your workspace?
It's clean, organized, bright, and relaxed.

2. What do you love most about your workspace?
There's a lot of light coming in the studio, which makes for a very relaxing workspace.

3. Do you have a daily ritual before starting your work day?
I pass by a neighborhood café to get my coffee fix before going to the studio.

4. Are you more productive in the morning or evening?
I'm a morning person, so I'm more productive in the morning.

5. Which object in your office are you most sentimental about?
Our "random" shelves. It came from my old studio and I really love looking at it.

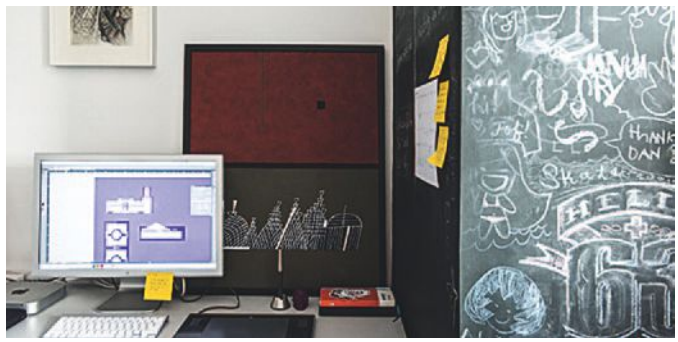
6. What are the three things you must have while working?
Music, internet, and coffee

7. Do you prefer silence or listening to music while working?
A little bit of both. I have different playlists I listen to on Spotify.

8. What are you currently reading?
I just finished reading "The Lowland" by Jhumpa Lahiri.



Displayed on the windowsill are frame prints from the "Friends of Type's" exhibit in San Francisco.





The Hello wall, which greets visitors upon entrance, is surrounded by different artwork: a frame letterpress on the wall, a Mars print propped on top of a skateboard deck side table, and a silkscreen print by Hyrdo74 on the floor.

9. Where do you get inspiration from?
I get inspiration from the people I talk to, the work of my friends and contemporaries, games, books, and travel.

10. What is your work mantra?
"Be brave, right through, and leave for the unknown."
-Rabindranath Tagore.

Above: An interesting feature in Plus63 Design Co.'s studio is the blackboard wall filled with different greetings from friends and guests. Adorning the working table right beside is a portrait by Dan's friend May Ann Licudine, as well as an Arturo Luz that another friend lent for the studio.



"As a studio, we want to create work that promotes good design—design that works, design that makes people happy," says designer and illustrator Dan Matutina, one of the founders of Plus63 Design Co., along with Berns De Leon-Yumul, Jo Malinis, and Raxenne Maniquiz.

Wallpaper Upkeep

Keeping the prints and patterns on your walls in tiptop shape

Written by **Razel Estrella**
Photographed by **Mike Cuevas and John Daryl Ocampo of Studio 100**



Although wallpaper is more expensive than paint, choosing it over the latter can save you from having to frequently retouch or do major renovations for your rooms in the long run.



Heavily patterned wallpaper may prevent you from noticing dirt buildup. It is necessary to vacuum it every few months to keep the design intact and your room refreshed.



Wallpaper choices have grown and improved throughout the years. From basic colors and simple patterns, you may now decorate your walls according to room function, such as in this office space that incorporates a realistic bookshelf wallpaper.



Wallpaper installed in your kid's room is one of the most prone to fingermarks and smudges. Use an art gum eraser to gently rub off dirt without damaging the area.

Flexibility in terms of design is one reason why homeowners prefer wallpaper over paint, yet the intimidating maintenance routine is grounds for choosing the latter in the end. What many don't realize is that if the wallpaper is of good quality, well-installed, and properly maintained, it can last for 10 to 25 years, which is much longer compared to using paint.

If you are hesitant about installing wallpaper in your new home or are getting frustrated in taking care of it, this guide might be of help.

Know your wall, know your wallpaper

- Consider the finish of your wall. If it is smooth, wallpapers with flat finish and have a shimmer to them may be used. If it's uneven, opt for wallpapers with patterned or textured surfaces. Aside from these, understand that different types of wallpaper require different treatment.
- Vinyl and acrylic, or those coated with either, are resistant to grease and water stains. These are therefore easily cleaned, and are ideal for the kitchen, bathroom, and children's room.
- Fabric looks very appealing but is more prone to moisture and staining. Refrain from placing it in areas with great activity.
- Plain paper can be the daintiest and also the most delicate. Use protective covering and avoid getting it wet at all costs.

Everyday cleaning

- Remove dust by using a vacuum with brush attachment, a duster, a dry sponge, or an electrostatic dust cloth. Clean from top to bottom and from left to right. For cobwebs, vacuuming is advised.
- Spot clean with damp cloth or sponge.
- Remove stains immediately. Leaving it for a while can cause permanent discoloration.
- Never use hot water.
- As a rule of thumb, don't be abrasive. Don't use abrasive solutions and tools, and be gentle by simply wiping or patting instead of scrubbing.
- Check the manufacturer's guidelines for cleaning as well.

Quick fixes

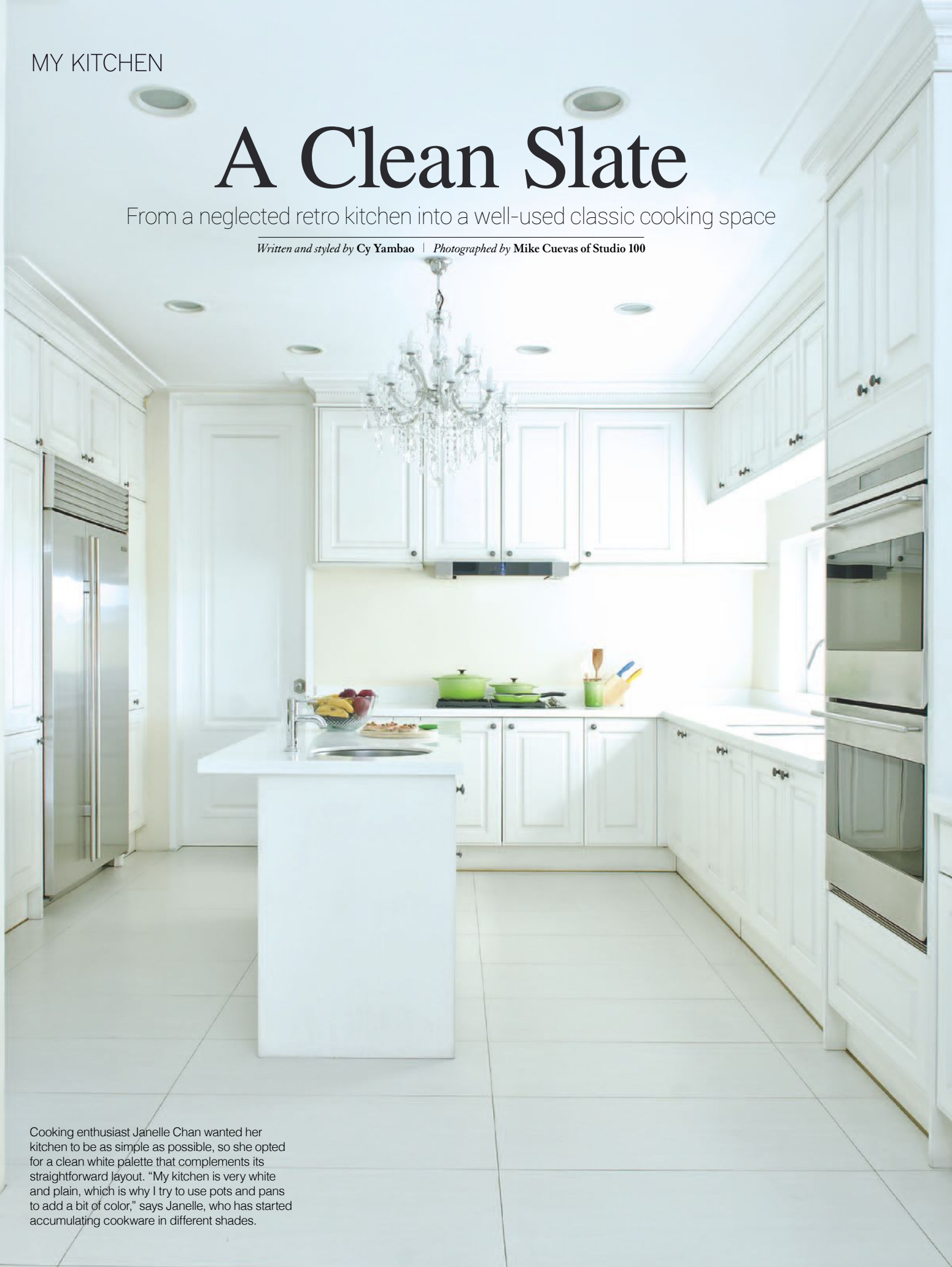
- For ordinary dirt spots, use a mild soap and warm water solution. Rinse thoroughly with water, then blot dry.
- For surface-deep stains, use detergent but try it first in a small area, and see if there is any adverse reaction before proceeding. Remember to rinse and dry after.
- Peels are commonly caused by moisture, weak adhesive, or inadequate gluing. Make sure the room is well-ventilated and use a wallpaper adhesive when installing. (Some wallpapers require a special adhesive.)
- Tears, on the other hand, are trickier to repair. For small tears, simply glue the paper back. For larger ones, cut a piece of wallpaper with the same design and, as in a jigsaw puzzle, use it to cover the hole. This can be unsightly if the damage is in a conspicuous area. In this situation, replacing the paper is advised.
- Always buy extra sheets of wallpaper in case the need for repair or replacement arises. When storing, avoid overprotecting it, meaning store it in a way that it will age similarly to the papers in use.

All featured wallpaper are from **Studio Eleven**. They are located at 150 MG Building, Amorsolo St., Makati. For inquiries, call (02) 894 1243, 894 1244 or email info@studiofabrics.com.

A Clean Slate

From a neglected retro kitchen into a well-used classic cooking space

Written and styled by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100**



Cooking enthusiast Janelle Chan wanted her kitchen to be as simple as possible, so she opted for a clean white palette that complements its straightforward layout. "My kitchen is very white and plain, which is why I try to use pots and pans to add a bit of color," says Janelle, who has started accumulating cookware in different shades.





Left: One corner of Janelle's kitchen is filled with coffee essentials like an espresso machine, an automatic grinder, a French press, filters, and coffee stirrers. "I actually can't have a lot of coffee because I'm hyperacidic, but I need to have one cup per day," she says.
Right: As a reward for organizing their family trip to Europe, Janelle's mom bought her tea sets from London. "I invite friends over for some afternoon tea from time to time," says Janelle. While she admits to not shopping a lot when traveling, she makes it a point to buy food such as coffee beans, tea, and spices instead.

Having no culinary background, cooking enthusiast Janelle Chan takes inspiration from her knowledge in chemistry to experiment on her own versions of Italian dishes. "I like measuring!" she confesses. "Some people get intimidated because you have to be precise when cooking or baking, but I enjoy it and feel more at ease when there's a specific recipe that I can follow yet tweak at the same time."

It all started as a mere hobby, with Janelle inviting friends over for afternoon tea and self-baked pastries or leading the New Year festivities with the entire family gathered at home. Contrary to common circumstances wherein parents highly influence their children's passions, it was the opposite for Janelle. "My mom doesn't cook at all, so she gave me absolute freedom to choose everything for this kitchen," she shares.

Janelle has been living in the same house her whole life, which meant a total renovation for the kitchen was necessary to get rid of the retro tiles and dated fixtures. Since she already knew what she wanted, it didn't take long for Janelle and her architect to execute the plan of having an all-white shell that supports the straightforward layout. "I feel like I can think more when my kitchen's open, clean, and bare," she says. She requested to have an island counter in the middle, coupled with a secondary sink and plenty of storage cabinets. "I try to consider the work flow when I organize, so that I won't have to go around the kitchen just to get something I need," adds Janelle.

Because her style has always been described as classic, Janelle wanted her newly renovated kitchen to keep up with the changing times. "I prefer the fixed features to be neutral, so I can easily add or change colors along the way," she explains. It took her only a day to pick out the appliances, but admits that it takes a bit more time to actually organize all her cookware, dinnerware, and other supplies—not to mention the refrigerator. For now, Janelle finds comfort in her almost colorless kitchen, which, despite its bareness, fuels a strong desire to whip concoctions up whenever there's time.



"My mom likes to travel, so she had this idea of buying a mug from every place she visits and bringing it back home," shares Janelle. This growing collection includes souvenir mugs from numerous trips across Asia, Europe, Africa, and the United States.

Crate and Barrel

The shipment of upmarket home furnishings has finally arrived in Manila

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Mike Cuevas of Studio 100** | *Additional photos courtesy of* **Crate and Barrel**

Have you ever walked into a store and felt as if every single furniture piece was coincidentally designed to fit your home's aesthetic? With the opening of international brand Crate and Barrel in Manila late last year, your answer might well be defined by the amount of boxes you'll be seen carrying to the parking lot. After all, it was literally shipping crates and barrels that launched what would eventually become a long-running family business.

The humble beginnings of Crate and Barrel date back to 1962, when a married couple went on a honeymoon trip to Europe and purchased stylishly affordable home furnishings. It started as one of the first retailers to offer modern tabletops and kitchenware, but has evolved into a multi-channel family of brands that now also specializes in indoor and outdoor furniture, and home accessories. Aside from the core products available year-round, Crate and Barrel keeps you looking for more with its seasonal collections (spring/summer, fall/winter, Easter, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Christmas) and specialty gift items like flag football game sets, beer decks, homemade gin kits, and hardbound guidebooks on whiskey. With more than 50 years down the line, Crate and Barrel has earned the prideworthy badge of partaking in milestones of families across the globe—and of being passed on to the next generations.



Amelia Chair, P64,390



The 2,000-square meter flagship store of Crate and Barrel conforms to the brand's design philosophy of clean and functional interiors. Brick walls and wood flooring contribute to the welcoming and comfortable ambiance.



Oyster shimmer print, P16,099

Sol dinnerware, P259 (dinner), P169 (salad), P179 (bowl), and P209 (mug)



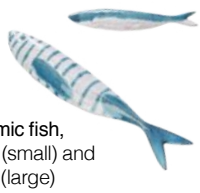
Carmel lanterns, P2,699 (small) and P3,419 (large)





Pesce pillow, P4,709

Lansbury pillow, P1,689



Ceramic fish, P389 (small) and P499 (large)



Olin throw, P1,289



Crate and Barrel's wide range of furniture pieces and accessories are arranged as vignettes in every corner, making you envision spaces as they would appear in your own home.



Gourd vases, P1,979 (small) and P2,419 (large)



Fresco totes (set of 4), P1,959

Driftwood side table, P17,490



Margot sofa, P65,090



Backyard Kitchen + Brew

Laidback dining redefined

Written by **Andrea Arines** | *Photographed by* **Trish Zamora of Studio 100**



Because Backyard Kitchen + Brew promotes Green Architecture, its interiors incorporate upcycled dining sets and lighting fixtures that are reminiscent of your own backyard.

When you're planning to spend a relaxing Friday night with family or friends, look no further than Backyard Kitchen + Brew. The newest resto bar on the block was intended for guests to experience dining that is laidback, fun, and less complicated. Chef Edward Bugia, along with his business partners, then came up with Backyard Kitchen + Brew in the hopes of bringing back the traditional hangout culture in Katipunan Avenue. The interiors alone give off a rustic ambiance, making you feel as if you were partying in your own backyard.

Fresh from its soft launch in December of last year, Backyard Kitchen + Brew offers a wide range of dishes from off-the-grill burgers to *Pinoy*-inspired fusions. To bring balance to the menu, the resto bar also offers healthy delights like salads and delectable desserts to satisfy your sweet tooth. From the homey environment down to the satisfyingly good meals, Backyard Kitchen + Brew is the ideal place to drink, dine and, most importantly, have fun.



Appetizers equate to vegetables and fruits! Surprisingly healthy and delicious, Backyard Kitchen + Brew's Tinapa & Quinoa Salad (P255) has tinapa flakes, quinoa, mixed greens, salted egg, tomatoes, and pickled onions with a dip of honey balsamic vinaigrette.

 Backyard Kitchen + Brew is located at 2/F Phase 2, UP Town Center, Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. They are open daily from 11:00am until 1:00am. For inquiries and reservations, text or call 0999 366 6921.



If a fan of sandwiches, you should definitely not miss this Grilled Cheese with Pulled Pork (P295). It is made with cheddar, ricotta, BBQ pulled pork, pickled onions, and toasted ciabatta.



The Waffle Breaded Fried Chicken (P295) comes with maple butter that slowly melts in its own heat. It is best partnered with either whipped bone marrow ciabatta toast or rice, along with sautéed kale with sriracha ketchup.



Garlic Flatbread (P255) topped with salted egg, chicken, skin, and sweet cherry tomatoes? Ideal for sharing!



Perfect for your sweet tooth cravings, Backyard Kitchen + Brew's Pizzookie (P385) is a freshly baked chewy chocolate chip cookie topped with mantecado ice cream and rock salt that melts and crumbles as you eat.



Backyard Kitchen + Brew brings the outdoor ambiance within its four corners, giving you a relaxing dining experience in the heart of Katipunan Avenue.



P2,699, available at Fully Booked

Renovating Rescue

Discover the art of recreating a home from simple DIYs to major makeovers

Written by **Aisne Trinidad** | *Photographed by* **Greg Mayo**

Radical Renovations: Inspiring Architectural Makeovers

Radical Renovations presents 30 remarkable transformations that convey sustainable and environmentally responsible designs. These primarily promote reusing and repurposing both old and readily available resources to minimize waste and avoid major demolition. Packed with before-and-after photos and illustrated floor plans, this book helps you visualize how renovations work in different architectural structures like residential houses and commercial establishments. Learn from such models, and find out how each has been dramatically converted into a sustainable space without sacrificing style and function.

A Beautiful Mess Happy Handmade Home: Painting, Crafting, and Decorating a Cheerful, More Inspiring Space

How will you be able to transform an entire room with just a little budget? Sisters Elsie and Emma of décor blog A Beautiful Mess answer the question in a book that teaches readers how to refurbish home furniture and accessories in cost-efficient ways.

A Beautiful Mess Happy Handmade Home tackles all areas of the house including customizing lighting fixtures to give the dining room a restaurant ambiance and recreating bed frames for a unique touch in the bedroom. Discover more than 100 brand-new ideas and projects in this book, and unleash your creativity in making your dwelling a happy, handmade home.

Think Home: Everything You Need to Plan and Create Your Perfect Home by Judith Wilson

The first step in planning and creating a beautiful home is thinking—thinking what works, what inspires you, what suits your lifestyle, and a lot more. *Think Home*, which is divided into four sections namely Think Hard, Think Lifestyle, Think Inspired, and Think Rooms, is the perfect book that encourages home dwellers to be imaginative and creative in planning out their dream homes. The thinking process starts by considering all aspects of building, such as acknowledging the merits of the existing structure, and forming functional areas for family and guests to retreat. A concluding chapter sums up how thinking can have a great impact on a home's aesthetic and purpose, thus resulting in a comfortable and inspired home for everybody.



P880, available at Fully Booked



P1,999, available at Fully Booked



Teaching is the most lucrative profession for OFWs

More young people volunteering in Philippine public schools

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE PHILIPPINES' LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER



Architect Justin Basco anchored the interiors of Apartment 1B on the *ventenilla* (or the sliding door under the window) to make The Henry Hotel's in-house restaurant brighter. He then replaced the concrete wall beneath the window with sampaguita or textured glass that allows light to come in.



The grilled pork chop with mashed potato is a must-try at Apartment 1B.



Architect Justin took inspiration from the now-demolished Scala Theater in Rizal Avenue for the reception area's grillwork. The colorful baldoza floor tiles, which were retained during construction, serve as another design element.

The Henry Hotel

A nostalgic sanctuary that blends old and new, modern and vintage

Written by **Love Ocampo** | *Photographed by* **Mark Jacob of Studio 100**

Known for its quirky and unique design, Cebu's popular The Henry Hotel has opened a boutique hotel in Pasay that charms first-time guests with its vintage-meets-modern appeal. It has 34 rooms spread across five Liberation-style houses, which were restored and repurposed for hotel guests. The houses' simple architecture is spruced up by key elements like the Scala grills inspired by the Art Deco Scala Theater, vibrant colors, and varying patterned tiles. Interior and furniture designer Eric Paras decorated each room with its own unique furniture—from *aparadors* to side chairs to sun room sets—which were all sourced around the Philippines and refurnished for that vintage modern twist.

Also inside the compound are destinations for those who want to dabble in culture and the arts. The list includes Eric Paras' furniture store and studio called A11, the Avellana Gallery, and Jojie Lloren's atelier. So what are you waiting for? Bask in a sanctuary where you can unwind with a good book and revel in surroundings that transport you back in time.



Left: Architect Justin worked closely with interior designer and A11 owner Eric Paras for the hotel interiors. The rooms mix old pieces like wooden *aparadors* and Ambassador chairs (wood-carved armchairs) with modern furniture pieces and lighting fixtures.

Below: *For a more luxurious stay with your family, book the Suite or the Owner's Suite, which both have an anteroom, balcony, and free WiFi.*



Right: *The houses were in good shape, but the challenge was adding two extra bathrooms per floor so that the occupants have their own private bath.*

Below: *The Henry Hotel spans across five houses interconnected by a covered walkway.*







Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city at Antulang Beach Resort in Negros Oriental, a secret hideaway where one learns to appreciate the vastness of nature. While it provides easy access to turquoise-blue seas, Antulang also houses three main swimming pools, one of which is this saltwater infinity pool that is connected to a 15 –foot diving pool for beginner courses.

Antulang Beach Resort

Drown your worries in the calming sounds of crashing waves, chirping birds, and swinging leaves

Written by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **John Daryl Ocampo of Studio 100**

There is always that one place you keep coming back to when life in the bustling city gets too hard to handle or you are simply seeking for new adventures. For the owners of Antulang Beach Resort, this idyllic hideaway located 40 kilometers south of Negros Oriental's capital has always been the family's favorite destination since the 70s. What captured their senses decades ago are the same factors that would make you want to book plane tickets to Dumaguete: sprawling hectares of sheer cliffs, white sand beaches strewn with natural rock formations, diving sites that seem like private aquariums, and plentiful fruit-bearing trees.

The hour-long drive from the airport or seaport is definitely worth taking, as Antulang Beach Resort compels you to forget all your problems once you stand on the edges of a cliff and look towards the horizon. Because it is located at the southernmost tip of Negros Island, you can witness both sunrise and sunset from the balcony of your private pool villa. On full moon nights, you c an watch various types of fish and other sea creatures as they swim in the ocean. When there are meteor showers, you can spend the night making wishes at countless shooting stars. If you are eager to snorkel or dive, the vast sea becomes your personal aquarium, where you can come across turtles, whale sharks, and dolphins. There is just too much to explore and experience at Antulang Beach Resort, making your trip to this seaside paradise a discovery of nature's most precious gems.



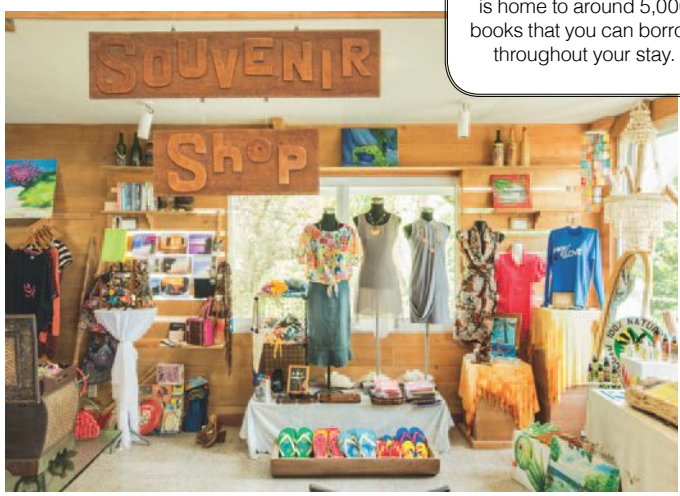
This will be your magnificent view from the Presidential Suite's bay window. The owners recommend this spot as an ideal place to read (or write!) a good book.





Antulang might literally be the most overbooked resort in Asia! The Edith L. Tiempo Reading Room is home to around 5,000 books that you can borrow throughout your stay.







Top left: Immerse yourself in the beauty of nature while taking a dip at your villa's private pool or Jacuzzi. The morning coos of zebra doves, wolf whistles of orioles, and warbling of starlings will keep you company throughout the day. Also keep an eye on the water if you want to chance upon a giant mantra ray, a passing pod of dolphins, or whale sharks and turtles grasping for air. **Middle left:** It's not everyday that you get to wake up from a king size bed that faces your own private pool at cliff's edge, which likewise faces the open sea. This Pool Villa decked out in Canadian pinewood is perfect both for romantic getaways with your partner and out-of-town excursions with your kids in tow. **Bottom left:** If your family is the creative and adventurous type, book the Presidential Suite that is perched on a formidable piece of rock. Engage in interesting activities even while in the comforts of your room, especially since you can go fishing straight from your balcony. **Top right:** Antulang's library is named after the late Edith Tiempo, a national artist awardee for literature who started Asia's longest running writers' workshop. The beach resort hosts the panelists and fellows of the Siliman University National Writers Workshop held annually in May. **Above:** Antulang's souvenir shop showcases a variety of locally made products by Filipino artisans. The resort likewise displays artworks and photographs done by the owners' artist friends from around Dumaguete and nearby Siquijor.

Antulang Beach Resort is located at Siit, Siaton, Negros Oriental. It is approximately an hour away from the Dumaguete Airport or Seaport. For inquiries, call 0917 300 0112/0920 947 6373, email info@antulang.com, or visit antulang.com. Like them on Facebook (Antulang Beach Resort) and follow them on Instagram (@AntulangBeachResort).

Where Change is Always a Good Thing

Feng shui must-knows when renovating, revamping, and redecorating your humble abode

Written by **Patti Sunio**
Illustrated by **Electrolychee Studio**



"Revamping your home is very much like getting a haircut or picking a new car for the family. It signifies the beginning of a new chapter in your lives," shares *feng shui* expert Master Hanz Cua, suggesting how change is always exciting. "In revamping your house, not only do you get to change the look and feel, but you'll also be refreshing the energy inside your home."

In home renovations, the usual *feng shui* rule applies: create a balance of energies. The Yin-Yang balance is important to keep family members healthy, happy, and fulfilled. With the bedroom being the place for resting and recharging, it must be kept dark and cozy to maintain its calming energy (also known as the Yin). On the other hand, arouse the Yang energy in the living room, dining area, and the kitchen through bright lights, color, and décor.

Also consider the Five Element balance. The home should have a good combination of Fire, Water, Earth, Wood, and Metal elements in it. Water elements, such as a water dispenser, an aquarium, or an indoor fountain, placed at the north sector will keep wealth and money luck flowing. Keep fire elements burning by placing your stove or oven in the south area, or brightening up this area of the house with red, yellow, pink, and orange hues.

Wood and earth elements, such as indoor fortune plants and stone crystals in the east section of the home, can attract an abundance of wealth for the year. In the west, metal elements like brass coins or home décor in gold, silver, gray, and white bring in unexpected money luck.

The top three things to consider when renovating are the ceiling, main door, and flooring. In *feng shui*, changing the roof or ceiling invites in more positive luck and blessings, while new floor tiles bring in great opportunities in career and business. With the front door being the gateway to the home, it's a must to keep it in good condition, and free of dirt, scratches, and other damages. That way, money luck and good fortune enter freely into the house.

And finally, as you go back and settle in your newly refurbished home, make sure not to bring in any old clutter with you. Although your existing utensils, room furniture, and other home décor may still be in good condition, it's still advisable to buy new things to match your home's new energy flow. It's recommended to purchase a new pillow and beddings to ensure a good night's rest. Kitchen utensils and cooking materials should be spic and span for a brand new energy to flow into the heart of your home.



Rat

Although 2015 presents a good year for Rats, enhancing water elements in the home can further strengthen your good luck. Throw pillows, a welcome rug, or curtains in fresh blue hues in the north section of the home make for good water elements.



Ox

Oxen may experience difficulty this year in terms of career and business. It's recommended that you buy religious articles to place in the north area of your home to help attract positive luck in finding job security, direction, blessings for the family, and good energy.



Tiger

Luckily for Tigers, you may receive unexpected increase in wealth this year. One way to maximize your good fortune is through earth elements placed in the northeast sector of the home. These include brown plant pots, pebbles, and crystal stones in yellow and pink.



Rabbit

Career and business luck for Rabbits are at a low this year. Lining your homes with thriving plants, which represent the wood element, is a good way to counter bad luck. Home decorations, such as wood statues and figurines, murals, or lush green plants, can help increase victory luck.



Dragon

Health luck may be unstable for Dragons this 2015. It's advisable that you avoid using the southeast sector of your home, as doing so may result in illness. Rock salt in a container with a lid, when put in the southeast area, is one way to drive away negative energy.



Snake

Snakes may also experience health problems this year. To avoid loss of good energy, keep away from bright yellow lights in the room. A good way to counter the negative luck is through metal elements, such as wind chimes or home décor in shiny gold or silver.



Horse

2015 will be great for Horses, who are considered good friends with Sheep. Water elements, such as home articles in deep blue or black, decorating the south portion of the home can further enhance your good luck. However, you should be cautious of possible theft or robbery, and take the necessary measures to secure your homes.



Sheep

Wealth luck looks to be positive for Sheep this year. Keeping fire elements alive will further enhance your positive money luck. Bright lights and furniture in yellow, orange, and red are some suggestions to maintain the strength of the fire element at home.



Monkey

Monkeys will have a steady flow of wealth this year. Enhancing the fire element in your homes, such as by placing scented candles or red-colored table accessories in the room can further bring in luck in traveling and business.



Rooster

2015 may be a problematic year for Roosters. It's advised that you keep the west sector of the home orderly, quiet, and neat. No entertainment devices such as speakers or television sets must be installed in this area. Instead, place rock crystals, stones, and sand-colored plant pots in the south area as effective cures for possible misfortune and money loss.



Dog

The year looks bright and promising for Dogs in love and relationships. Nurture this luck by placing rose quartz stones in the northwest area of the home and bedroom.



Boar

It'll be a year of learning for Boars this year as your wisdom luck is strong for 2015. Take advantage of this opportunity to nurture your skills and talents by displaying a Chinese abacus or other study materials in the northwest sector of the home.

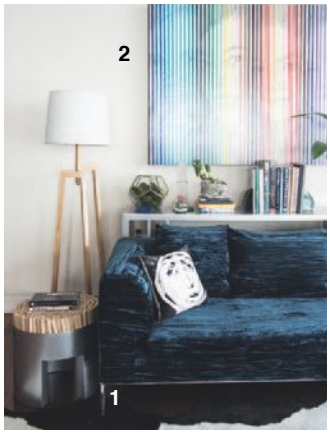


Visit **Master Hanz Cua** at his 8 Treasures–House of Mystical Charms shop at 1/F EDSA Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City or get in touch with him at 0922 8290 382.

Of Crystals and Colors

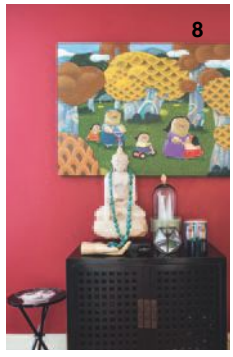
Jewelry designer Janina Dizon attracts happiness into her life through sentimental home items

Produced by **Cy Yambao** | *Photographed by* **Trish Zamora of Studio 100**



















1-2. "This **couch**, which we brought home from Thailand, has had many re-incarnations as I have it re-upholstered regularly. I just love the versatility of the sectionals; I can move them around as I see fit. Behind is a **commissioned family portrait** by Gerecho Cruz, whose style may not be very traditional but definitely reflects us."

3. "Because I am a jeweller, I love **crystals**—both for the way they look in a home and the vibrations they give off. I had all these shipped from Germany."

4. "I've always wanted to have my own little **bar** even though I don't drink. I find this perfect because it's not too big, doesn't take over the entire space, and still looks beautiful when closed. It's mainly for my friends whenever I entertain."

5. "I'm very partial to birds, so I love this **birdcage lamp** by Vito Selma that I won at a UNICEF auction. It actually has a slipcover to make it seem like a real bird sleeping at night."

6. "I love my **side tables** because they're made of stingray, which I am pretty much known for. Inspired by gems, these tables are cut based on the skeleton view of a diamond or colored stone. I wanted to further my stingray jewelry line, so I thought the next reasonable expansion would be into home."

7. "As you can see, I'm obsessed with Fornasetti. But this particular **corner table** is a special one because usually, you only see small items of Fornasetti (like the plates) and not big furniture pieces."

8. "My home employs a colorful palette because I believe it evokes a happier ambiance as opposed to something dark. This **artwork** by Popo San Pascual, which I also got from a UNICEF auction, is themed after a children's birthday party."

9. "My husband bought this 1920s **leather trunk** from a flea market in London 30 years ago. It travelled with him wherever he went, so I thought it needed a special place in our home."

10. "I love this **painting** by Roel Obemio because it depicts family, and I'm very much of a family person. I saw it, found it joyful, and liked what it evoked in me. Also included in the setup are an alabaster Buddha from Thailand, Ito Kish's bell jar with crystals inside, and a terrarium I had commissioned from an artist in London."



"It's really just me buying what I like and hoping it would work out," says jeweller Janina Dizon, whose family home of 10 years is a collaborative effort with her husband. "I would say that my style is quite eclectic—Asian, European, and modern, to name a few—but what holds it all together is the color scheme."

 Visit **Janina for Jul Dizon** at Upper Lobby Shop Number 2, The Peninsula Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati. For inquiries, call (02) 845 0139 or email janina@janinadizon.com.


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- Better Heat Resistance
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